



Tampa Bay Star

February/March 2018

Alan Jay
Collection
See Pages 6 & 7



Sunken Gardens
See Pages 8 & 9

Coming Events

March 18, 2018
Tampa Bay Downs
Tampa, FL

April 22, 2018
Picnic in the Park
Safety Harbor, FL

May, 2018
Tech Inspection at
Crown Eurocars
Pinellas Park, 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.

Mar 18 Sunday 10:30 AM - 5PM
Tampa Bay Downs Brunch
Tampa, FL
See details in THIS issue

Apr 2 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars
8302 US Hwy 19 N
Pinellas Park, FL

NOTE NEW LOCATION

Apr 22 Sunday 11:00 AM-2PM
Picnic in the Park
Safety Harbor, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

May 19 Saturday
Tech Inspection
Crown Eurocars
Pinellas Park, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

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

Aug 6 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

Sep 10 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 Everyone!

Welcome Spring!! We have started 2018 with two fabulous events. We had a record number of people attending our January 27 event considering it was out of the area. We had over 50 signed up to attend the Alan Jay Wildstein Car Collection in Sebring. What fabulous cars we saw on display. I even sat in a car worth \$2.8 million called a Pagani. It was amazing. After the tour, we went to lunch at the Island View Restaurant & Pub. The food was fabulous. We were all pleasantly surprised when the manager announced that Alan Jay was sorry he couldn't join us for lunch with us but he was picking up the tab for everyone!!! What a really pleasant surprise.

Our February 24 event was a tour of Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg. We had over 20 people in attendance. The docents were both great and we all learned a lot about the beautiful plants and trees. For me, the highlight was the flock of 10 flamingos on display. What beautiful birds; getting to see them up close was a real treat. We then went to Harvey's 4th Street Grill for a great lunch and time to visit with everyone. The food there is very good. I recommend eating there anytime you are in the St. Pete area.

We are sad to report that since the Holiday Brunch we have lost two long-time members – Roger Fongar, and Dick Wolverton. Dick has been the club's legal advisor for many years, served on the board in many positions, and was present at many monthly events. Turn to page 10 for pictures and more details.

We have many more exciting events coming up – a relaxing afternoon on Tampa Bay in Phillippe Park, Safety Harbor on April 22 (see page 5), and a Tech Inspection at the new Crown Eurocars location for May 19th (see page 9). Please plan on attending whenever you can. We look forward to seeing everyone every month. Please come to our monthly meetings at the new Crown Eurocars dealership (FYI the classroom on the second floor in their new location has plenty of chairs so everyone can sit and an elevator) and share any ideas you have for upcoming events. We love new and fresh ideas.

Lynn



Welcome New Members!

Darcy Byrnes • Sarasota
Charles Clinton Jr. • Odessa
Jim Dean • Sebring
Michael Evers • Lakewood Ranch
William Jensen • Sarasota
David Mobley • Brandon
Peter Papas • Palmetto

Renewed Members

Herb Anderson • St Petersburg
George Antia • Largo
Karen Beach • Davenport
Leonard Berman • Sarasota
Thomas Bonaparte • Tampa
Caroline Cerveny • Oldsmar
Todd Christian • Lakeland
Paul Cooper • Safety Harbor
Julian Demby • New Port Richey
Gary Dolin • Bradenton
Steven Easton • Osprey
Don Eckerson • Sun City Center
Lon Fairchild • Ocala
Raymond Fox • Dover
Werner Haasch • Palm Harbor
Ken Hackett • Sarasota
Alexander Kennedy • St Petersburg
John Lary • Naples
Ricardo Marin • Oldsmar
Michael McElmurry • Parrish
Vincent Misciagna • Bradenton
Gayle Moore • St. Petersburg
James Moslener • Apollo Beach
Richard Schmitz • Woodbury
William Sgro • Lakewood Ranch
Larry Smith • Palm Harbor
Jonathan Sones • Clearwater
Steve Tunwall • Trenton
Eleanor Vassel • Dunedin
Pat Watson • Bradenton
Matthew Wichman • Tampa

Above are the new and renewed members from January 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch

Details: Thoroughbred racing is back for the winter season and we have March 18th scheduled for the Tampa Bay Section – MBCA. We have reserved a group area in the Skye Terrace Dining Room located on the 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 \$30.00 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 winner's trophy. Four (4) members 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 50 people to sign-up (2 persons per membership) and send in their payment. Our absolute deadline for cutoff is in-hand receipt of your check by March 9th. Price for the brunch and afternoon of action is \$30.00 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 or skorts are allowed, and gentlemen are required to wear a colored shirt... this dress code is soundly 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 18, 2018

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

COST: \$30/adult

CALL: Dave & Lynn • 727-420-0424
DHutch@verizon.net

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

RESERVE BY: **March 9th**. (or first 50 people)

Limited to 50 registrations (2 per membership).

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

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch March 18, 2018

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by March 9, 2018 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

1 or 2 @ \$30/adult _____ Enclosed

Picnic in the Park on Tampa Bay



Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, April 22, 2018
WHERE: **Phillippe Park**
2525 Philippe Pkwy, Safety Harbor, FL
Shelter #6
COST: \$5.00/membership
CALL: Dave & Lynn • 727-420-0424
DHutch@verizon.net
TIME: 11AM - 3 PM
RESERVE BY: April 16th

**The club is providing beverages and light snacks for this event.
Please bring what food you want for dinner.**

Details: Here is what the Pinellas county website says about this park: Philippe Park was acquired in 1948, making it the oldest park in the county. This historically rich park bears the name of Count Odet Philippe who introduced citrus culture to Florida. The existing park property was part of the original Philippe plantation from which several citrus trees still remain. For those on FaceBook and have seen the owl photos posted by Dave Hutchinson, those pics were taken in this park.

We have secured Shelter #6. Pack what ever you are in the mood to eat & the club will provide the beverages & light snacks. Relax, visit & enjoy a relaxed view of Tampa Bay. Bring some chairs as the shelter only has picnic tables that usually don't get softer as we sit!!

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location or call Lynn Hutchinson, 727-420-0424 or Linda Cooper, 727-798-6800.

Picnic in the Park on Tampa Bay April 22, 2018

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ coming \$5.00 Enclosed

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by April 16, 2018 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Alan Jay Wildstein Car Collection

Sebring, FL
January 27, 2018
By Dave Hutchinson

It was great seeing everyone in Sebring on Saturday, January 27th for our monthly event at Alan Jay Wildstein's airport hangar. More than 50 members attended. Mr. Wildstein told us and showed us his small collection of very sexy and desirable automobiles including Ferraris, Maseratis, Bentleys, Corvettes, and more. There was even a Jeep with a 750 horsepower engine!

Certainly, the crowd pleaser was Alan's carbon fiber bodied Pagani. The Pagani is one of only a hundred of these really exotic cars. His cost for this car was 2.8 million dollars! And, many of our members got to sit in the car for photos!

Unfortunately Alan Jay was not able to join us for lunch afterward, since he was jetting off to the Atlantic Coast for a meeting. However, he brought the house down when he paid for everyone's meal! Our lunch was nearby at the Island View Restaurant at the Sun & Lakes Country Club. The food and the service were amazing.

Many thanks to members, Jim and JoAnne Dean, for finding this event. A goal of this club is to be able to show members places and experiences they have never been to before. If you have an idea for an event, please bring it to the attention of one of our board members.

Right: Alan Jay Wildstein & his girl friend



Below: Linda Cooper, Bob Martino, Lynn Hutchinson, Paul Cooper, Catherine Martino, Gary & Connie Dolin, Jim Dean, and Elaine & Jimmie Lee



Left: Robert Lewis and Scott & Colleen Lowry



Left: Don & Margaret Eckerson and Barbara & Charlie Sanbrook
Right: Kathy & Jonathan Sones



All photos in this issue taken by Dave Hutchinson



Above: Jim & Carol Ashworth

Below: Joann Kalessis

Right: Alan Jay with Gail & Buzz Werner and Lee Kalessis

Below right: Pam & Dave Hughey and Steve & Heather Rush



Left: Donna & Steve Rae

Below: Howard & Suzi Rogers and Paul Cooper



Above far: JoAnn Dean, Lee & Joann Kalessis, Betty Hendrix and Scott Suits

Above: Carmine & Mary Elizabeth Pluchino, Frank & Deborah Pinto and Jimmie & Elaine Lee

Right: Lynn Hutchinson, Connie & Gary Dolin, Catherine & Bob Martino and Greg & Pat Watson

Sunken Gardens Tour and Lunch

St. Petersburg, FL
February 24, 2018
By Pat Watson

On February 24th, 27 members met at the Sunken Gardens for our guided tour. Sunken Gardens is a 100-year-old botanical paradise in the midst of downtown St. Petersburg. The gardens were built in 1903, by a local plumber. George Turner, Sr. purchased a plot on the, then, outskirts of St. Pete, which had a 4-acre lake on the property. Being an avid gardener he was more interested in the fertile soil that lay 15ft below the lake. So putting his plumbing skills to good use, he drained the entire lake. He began his sea level garden by planting a few citrus trees and vegetables. He added walk ways and tropical plants over the years. The humid below ground bubble created a tropical garden.

Many long time Florida residents from our group had never visited Sunken Gardens. It was certainly not what any of us expected. Since the gardens are 15ft below the city street, the traffic noise disappeared and the only sounds were the branches rustling in the wind. The temperature appeared to drop while walking along the shady paths.

Our group was separated into two smaller groups led by Bob and Gretchen. Both tour leaders were plant enthusiasts, interesting and very knowledgeable. Gretchen informed the group of many plants she tried in her gardens and the success or failure with our hot tropical climate. Bob explained the history of the gardens and the various plans for improvement, while also pointing out interesting plants, turtles, and birds. Both pointed out the network of 100-year-old clay pipes that direct the water to fountains, streams, and waterfalls. After the tours both groups agreed that the guides were what made the visit great, and each group felt “my” guide was the best. We all enjoyed the lush plants, the butterfly garden, and of course spending time with our friends on a nice spring day.

After the tour, the group met at Harvey’s 4th Street Grill for a late lunch. Harvey’s reserved the back patio just for our group. The wait staff was very attentive and the full menu gave the group lots of options for lunch.

We hope you all enjoyed the event and, for those unable to attend, we hope to see you at the next MBCA outing.



Above: Gary Dolin, Lynn Gulick, Lynn Hutchinson, Debbie Cabrera, Linda Cooper & Connie Dolin

Below: Lou Dughi, Krissy Bacon, and John & Norma Boots



Above Right: Event planners Pat & Greg Watson

Above: Photographer Dave Hutchinson

Right: Patrick & Wendy Myelle





Left: Dan Cabrera & Buzz Werner relax in the shade

Below: Michael & Lynn Gulick and Debbie & Dan Cabrera



Below: Edgard Schulz, Buzz & Gail Werner and Marcia Schulz



Left: Mary Ellen & Ron Ames, Bob Beltz, Connie & Gary Dolin, Greg & Pat Watson, Lynn Hutchinson and Linda & Paul Cooper

Above: Patrick & Wendy Myelle, Deborah Pinto, Lou Dughi, Krissy Bacon, John & Norma Boots, Frank Pinto, and Nancy & Jim Merada



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. \$16,500 - Call Dave Hutchinson at 727-420-0592 or 727-726-6711.



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Remembering members

We received the following email from Joni Riedmiller:

It is with deep sadness that I tell you that Roger Fongar, my partner of 21 years, passed away on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at home in St. Petersburg. He had an aggressive form of lung cancer. He had been diagnosed last fall in Germany when he was visiting his home country.

We both really loved our time in the Mercedes club, the road rallies, the people, the cars, and more. I want you to know that Roger was proud to be a part of the Tampa Bay Star Mercedes Club (since 2005) and was happy to have found like-minded car enthusiasts and friends. I hope you will let your members know. His passing has left a big hole in my life and all of his friends. Joni

Also this week we received notification that Dick Wolverton, MBCA member since 1997, passed away on February 27th. Dick was our club legal advisor since he first joined and over the years held many positions on the Board. He and his late wife, Bonnie, were in charge of our holiday brunch at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club for many years.

This page of photos is dedicated to both of these members. They will be greatly missed.



Left: Dick & Bonnie at one of the holiday brunches

Below far: Bonnie & Dick Wolverton on our way to Shark Valley in 2008

Below: Dick plays the "Judge" during a tour of Heritage Village



Above: George Orndorff at the January Alan Jay event with Rogers 1989 560SL

Left: Joni & Roger

Far Left 2 photos: Roger with his award winning 1966 MB 200 Fintail

Tech Inspection at Crown Eurocars



Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, May 19, 2018
WHERE: **Crown Eurocars**
8302 US Hwy 19 N • Pinellas Park, FL
COST: \$5.00/car for tech inspection
CALL: Paul Cooper • Home 727-726-6837 •
Paul 727 644 6837 • Linda 727-798-6800
PaulJCooper@verizon.net
TIME: 11 AM - 2:00 PM
RESERVE BY: **May 13th**

Details: We will gather at the new Crown Eurocars Mercedes Benz location at 8302 US Highway 19 N, Pinellas Park. at 11 am for a Tech Inspection day. The dealership will provide the technicians - we will provide the food, fun and frivolity. So get your starship inspected or just come & meet some fellow members. Either way we will have a terrific day.

Mail your coupon so we know how many for lunch provided by the club. Let us know if you will have your car inspected so the technicians are prepared. Also we need to know how many will be coming in your car, so we have a head count for the food. Contact Paul & Linda with any further questions.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location. FYI in St. Petersburg US Highway 19 N has a number called 34th Street. In Pinellas Park the same street is just known as US Highway 19 N. Because Crown is now North of the Gandy Bridge, they are now in Pinellas Park – thus the name change for the same street. They are now on the West side of the street. The joys of navigating in Pinellas County!!

Come & See Crown Eurocars New Location (Just 1.6 mile north of the old location)

Tech Inspection at Crown Eurocars May 19, 2018

Name(s) _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

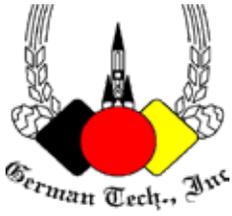
Mail by May 13, 2018 to:

Email _____

Paul & Linda Cooper
121 Woodland Court
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Address _____

_____ coming \$5.00 Enclosed I will get my car inspected Y N



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