

Tampa Bay Star

October/November 2013



Wild Bill's, Lunch & Evening at the Gulick's See pages 8 & 9



Rally Winners - Read About Our Day on Pages 6 & 7

Coming Events

November 9-10, 2013 Edison/Ford Museum & Dinner Ft. Myers, FL

> **December 8, 2013 Holiday Brunch** Safety Harbor, FL

January 19, 2014 Walking Tour & Dinner Safety Harbor, FL

February TBD Nature Tour & Picnic Hillsborough County, FL

March TBD **DaVinci Exhibit & Dinner** Bradenton, FL

March 29, 2014 **Collier Museum & Tech Scession SE Regional Event** Naples, FL

Officers

President Dave Hutchinson

727-726-6711 Dhutch@verizon.net

Vice President

Paul J. Cooper 727-726-6837

PaulJCooper@verizon.net

Secretary Lynn Hutchinson

727-726-6711

Dhutch@verizon.net

Treasurer Pat Tornblom

727-856-5584

ptornblom@tampabay.rr.com

Past President

Paul J. Cooper

Newsletter Editor

Linda B. Cooper 727-726-6837

LindaBCooper@verizon.net

Chairpersons

Membership

Paul J. Cooper 727-726-6837

PaulJCooper@verizon.net

Activities Lynn Hutchinson

Photography

Dave Hutchinson

Historian Lynn Hutchinson

Technical

Legal Advisor

Dick Wolverton

Webmaster

Dan Cabrera

dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

SE Regional Director

Scott Suits 727-460-5739 Suits@ij.net

About the Newsletter

The Tampa Bay Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. publishes this bimonthly 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 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.

Oct 19 Saturday

Tour of Vinoy & lunch St Petersburg, FL

Nov 4 Monday 6:30PM

> Business Meeting & dinner Crown Eurocars 6001 34th Street North St Petersburg, FL

Nov 9-10 Sunday or weekend

Ford/Edison home tours Ft. Mvers. FL

See details in THIS issue

Dec 2 Monday 6:30PM

> Business Meeting & dinner Crown Eurocars

Sunday 11:00 AM Dec 8

> Holiday Brunch Safety Harbor Spa

See details in THIS issue

Jan 6 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

Jan 19 Sunday 2:30 PM

Walking Tour & Dinner Safety Harbor, FL

See details in THIS issue

Monday 6:30PM Feb 3

> Business Meeting & dinner **Crown Eurocars**

Feb **TBD**

> Nature walk & picnic Hillsborough County park

Mar 3 Monday 6:30PM

> Business Meeting & dinner Crown Eurocars

TBD Mar

> DaVinci exhibit & meal Bradenton Municipal Auditorum

Mar 29 Saturday 6:30PM

Collier Museum Tour & dinner

Naples, FL

Apr 7 Monday 6:30PM

> Business Meeting & dinner Crown Eurocars

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

The Prez Says!

First, let me say thank you to past president Dave Hutchinson, during his term our Section's events have shown an increase in participation. We have grown in attendance from averaging 20+ members to averaging 30+ per event. We still have room to grow so please join us at the upcoming events. We try to schedule events that alternate Saturdays and Sundays and that offer a variety of interests. We are a diverse group of people with equally diverse interests. The two things I can say are: (1) an opportunity for you to do something you may not have considered doing on your own and, (2) that you will be with people who like to have fun.

Second, our last event was an airboat ride in Iverness, Florida that took us on the Withlacoochee River where we saw different species of wildlife that included a group of 50 or more recently hatched alligators. The tour guide/airboat captain also provided us with some thrills by maneuvering the airboat into spins and turns that elevated our heart rate. We enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant and then later that evening we were the guests of the event planners, Michael and Lynn Gulick, at their beautiful home located in The Villages.

Future events include a history tour and lunch at the historic Vinoy Hotel in St. Petersburg, a weekend event in Ft. Myers that includes a tour of the Edison/Ford estates and our Holiday Brunch at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. (**NOTE:** this year at the Holiday Brunch we our encouraging those in attendance to bring an unwrapped toy for any age child. These gifts will be given out to children at a local hospital.)

Club information can be found on the MBCA website, our newsletters, and on our Facebook page. We hope to see you at a coming event.





Check out the club Facebook page or our Section web site at MBCA.org for color photos of our events

Welcome New Members!

Rodger Baker • Clearwater, FL Steven Beatty • St. Pete Beach, FL Scott Burgess • St Petersburg, FL Jose Chavez • Ocala, FL Jerry Edwards • Dunedin, FL James Hill • Lithia, FL Jerry Johnson • Clearwater Barbara Karassik • University Park, FL Bobby Keen • Seffner, FL Donna Lancaster • Belleair, FL Karen Moore • Redington Shores, FL Philip Rector • Lake Placid, FL Bruce Reed • Wesley Chapel, FL Stephen Rush • St Petersburg, FL Fitzgeraldo Sanchez • Tampa, FL Kevin Thompson • Lutz, FL

Above are the new members from August 12 through October 14. We look forward to meeting you at many of our events. – Editor

Breakfast Voucher Info

FYI - when I made my reservation at the Holiday Inn Express in Ft. Myers for the Edison/Ford tour weekend, I asked for clarification of the \$5 charge for breakfast. They told me they have a full service restaurant and the voucher you can purchase at check-in is \$5/person. You present the voucher at the restaurant in exchange for a full hot breakfast. She said there are usually 4 or 5 choices from their menu & they change the choices daily. It includes beverages and the breakfasts are worth about \$8-10 without the voucher.

Fun Veterans Day Weekend in Historic Ft. Myers

Important Info

WHEN: Sat-Sun November 9-10, 2013

WHERE: Saturday night - Nervous Nellie's

1131 First Street Fort Myers Beach

Sunday morning - Edison & Ford

Winter Estates Tour 2350 McGregor Blvd.

Ft. Myers, FL www.EFwefla.org

Holiday Inn Downtown Ft. Myers 2431 Cleveland Ave, Ft. Myers, FL

239-332-3232

COST: \$16.00/person for the Tour

Hotel \$75/night

CALL: Nancy & Jim Merada • 727-391-4298

res7dizo@tampabay.rr.com

TIME: 6:30 PM for dinner Saturday

9:30 AM gather for 10 AM tour Sunday

RESERVE BY: October 23rd

Details: Nancy Merada planned the details for our November weekend in Ft. Myers. She negotiated a great rate of \$75 per night (for Fri, Sat and/or Sun night(s)) at the Holiday Inn Downtown Historic Ft. Myers (renovated 2012). Mention Mercedes Benz club for this rate. You can purchase voucher(s) at check in for \$5/person for breakfast at the hotel. This has to be done at check in. The front desk has all the details. Saturday night there will be dinner & live entertainment on the waterfront deck at Nervous Nellies on the beach and, of course, partying at the hotel after! Sunday, after breakfast, we will tour the historic winter homes of Henry Ford & Thomas Edison. Some are coming all 3 nights and some will drive in just for the tour - the choice is yours.

At Ford/Edison, we will be doing the Complete Estates Tour which offers a complete orientation and a self-guided audio tour of the historic homes, gardens and laboratory of the Edison and Ford families as well as the Museum. The museum contains an impressive collection of inventions, artifacts and special exhibits including individual audio headsets. We also will have a docent. The audio headsets are included in the discounted group rate of \$16/person.

Directions: To the Holiday Inn from the north: take exit I-75 exit #158 toward Cape Coral/N Ft Myers for .3 mi; merge onto Co Rd 762/Green Gulf Blvd/Tuckers Grade for .9 mi; then turn left onto U.S. 41 S/Tamiami Trail. Follow U.S. 41 S for 17.5 mi. Your destination will be on the left.

Edison/Ford Estate is less than 1 mile from the Holiday Inn. Nervous Nellies is about 15 miles away on Ft. Myers Beach. We will have driving directions to these venues for you at the hotel. Contact Nancy if you will coming just to dinner or the tour for additional directions. The addresses are provided in the Important Info box for your own GPS or map searches.

Fun Veterans Day Weekend in Historic Ft. Myers November 9 & 10, 2013

Name(s)			-
Phone	Cell Phone		Make check payable to: Tampa Bay Section MBC
EmailAddress			Mail by October 23, 2013 to:
@ \$ 16 /perso	on for Ford/Edison tour	Enclosed	Nancy & Jim Merada 13528 Monalee Ave. Seminole, FL 33776

Holiday Brunch

Important Info

Sunday December 8, 2013 WHEN:

WHERE: Safety Harbor Spa

105 North Bayshore Drive • Safety Harbor, FL 34695

727-726-1161

COST: \$25.00/person

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson • 727-726-6711 • dhutch@verizon.net

Cell phone: 727-420-0424

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM TIME:

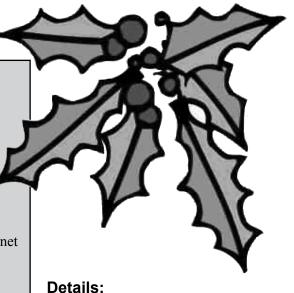
RESERVE BY: December 1, 2013

Limit 2 per membership

Directions: FROM the SOUTH – Go North on I-275 past St. Petersburg to exit 30 for FL-686 W/Roosevelt Blvd; go 0.7 mi; follow signs for Florida 686 W/Roosevelt Boulevard/Largo/Clearwater and merge onto FL-686 W/Roosevelt Blvd N 1.0 mi; keep left at the fork, follow signs for Largo/Clearwater; 0.7 mi; continue straight onto FL-688 W/Ulmerton Rd 1.2 mi; turn right onto 49th St N/County Rd 611 (across the Bayside Bridge) 5.2 mi; turn right onto Drew St; 0.3 mi; turn left onto N Bayshore Blvd; go 2 mi. & the Spa will be at the 4 way stop on your right.

FROM the EAST - Go West on I-275 to exit 39 to merge onto FL-60 W/Florida 589 Toll N toward Tampa Airport/Clearwater; merge onto W Courtney Campbell Causeway for 9.7 mi; turn right onto S Bayshore Blvd 2.5 mi to the 4 way stop. The Spa in on your right.

FROM the NORTH – Go South on either US Hwy 19 or SR 611 (Eastlake/McMullen Booth Rd.) to Sunset Point/Main Street (Note if you are on US 19 this is an exit to the right) turn left onto Sunset Point/Main Street. From McMullen Booth it is 1.3 through Safety Harbor and the will be just ahead at the 4 way stop. If you come South on either I-75 for the Suncoast Pkwy follow the signs to Tampa airport and see the directions above from the EAST



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 wrapped gift costing about \$15 (car or holiday related in good taste) if you want to participate in this gift exchange. If you are participating, you must stay until ALL gifts are exchanged. See presidents message on page 3 for additional details.

Sunday Brunch at the historic Safety Harbor Resort and Spa is more than a collection of enticing entrees, savory soups, salads and delectable desserts - it's a sensory experience served up with a dash of history. Our Section us paying for part of the brunch cost. Valet parking is available.

Holiday B	Bru	ınch
December	8,	2013

Name(s)			
Phone			
Email address			
No\$25/person	enclosed		

Make check payable to: Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by December 1, 2013 to: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson 2104 Flamingo Place Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Fun Rally

Clearwater, FL August 25, 2013 By Scott Suits

ourteen teams met in Clearwater at Panera Bread by Countryside Mall for a 10:00 am start time. Section members came early to enjoy some of the great coffee and some sweet things (besides the sweet things that came with them in the car). One team was started every four minutes by rally master Scott O. Suits for an approximate two-hour rally that let the participants North along the Gulf of Mexico. The 53 course changes led the participants over coastal back roads not normally traveled and through towns like Dunedin, Palm Harbor, Crystal Beach, Tarpon Springs, across the Anclote River and ending up in Holiday. There were 46 clues to answers along the route that could be found on signs, road signs, buildings, mailboxes and some other obscure places. The last thing to decipher was "Willkommen, Treffen von Freunde" translated Welcome, meeting of friends.

The rally ended at "The German Restaurant" at 2616 US Highway 19 in Holiday Florida and we were all greeted by Dagmar Kasper. Dagmar and her husband and chef Hue Kasper own and operate this cozy European-styled restaurant that serves authentic German cuisine and beer.

The following teams placed as follows. (driver & navigator):

1st Place:

478.5 points – Dave & Lynn Hutchinson

2nd Place:

472.5 Points – Gary & Connie Dolin

3rd Place:

460.0 Points – Jim and Elaine Moslener



Above: Robert & roxie Lewis and Pat & Greg Watson in Panera before the rally

Above left: Rally master Scott Suits with the Bermans infront of Len Berman's Volt.

Above right: Ben & Len Berman ready to start off

Honorable mentions:

418.5 Points – Ed & Carolyn Jarotz

394.5 Points – Matthew & Jim Merada

394.0 Points - Rodger & Adam Baker

362.0 Points – Paul & Linda Cooper

339.0 Points – Michael & Lynn Gulick

324.5 Points – Greg & Pat Watson

297.0 points - Pat Tornblom & Mary Lounge

249.0 Points - Debra & Dan Cabrera

218.0 Points - Robert & Roxie Lewis

non func. odom. George Antia & James Athan

DNF Len and Ben Berman



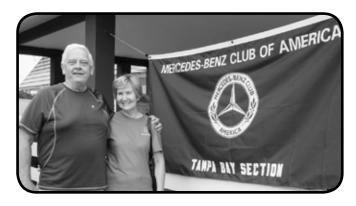
On the Cover rally winners L-R: Gary & Connie Dolin, Jim & Elaine Moslener behind Rally Master Scott Suits and Lynn & Dave Hutchinson

Right: New member Rodger Baker with his family

All photos in this issue taken by Dave except some of the starting rally in the car photos taken with Linda







Above: Jim and Elaine Moslener

Left: Dave Hutchinson with his CLK - yes it does exist!! Far left: Jim and Elaine Moslener, sitting Jim & Nancy Merada & grandson Mathew, standing Scott Suits, Carolyn & Ed Jarotz, Gary & Connie Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson, Michael Gulick standing behind Dan Cabrera



Above: Driver George Antia & James Athan

Above Left: Mary Lounge & Pat Tornblom

All in the group shot above are in other photos except Paul & Linda Cooper

Above top: Look who is driving in the Merada's car - grandson Mathew with Jim & Nancy

Above: Dan & Debbie Cabrera Right center: Lynn & Michael

Gulick

Far right: Carolyn & Ed Jarotz

Wild Bill's Airboat Ride & Meals

Inverness & The Villages, FL September 21, 2013

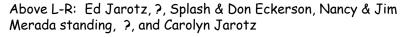
nce again, another really successful event for the Tampa Bay Section as we ventured to Inverness to take an airboat ride on the Withlacoochee River. Saturday was packed with events including the boat trip, lunch at a great little local restaurant (The Fisherman). That evening Michael and Lynn Gulick invited our members to their beautiful home in The Villages for cocktails and bar-b-que



Above: Event planners & hosts Michael & Lynn Gulick

Above: Debbie & Dan Cabrera, Lynn Hutchinson and Connie Dolin sign the release papers using Debbie's survival box from the trunk of her new car. She had everything in this box if you got stuck somehere!!



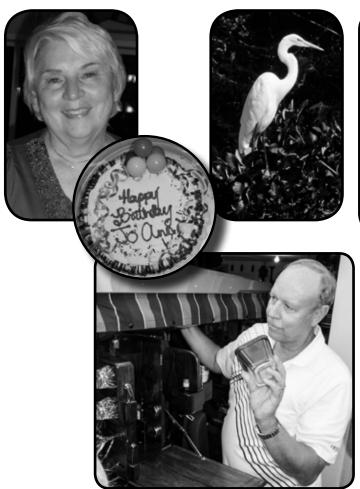


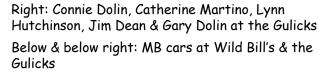
Group on the cover: Jim Merada, Carolyn & Ed Jarotz, Nancy Merada, ? & ?, Splash & Don Eckerson, Connie Dolin, Catherine Martino, Gary Dolin, Joann Dean & Lynn Gulick behind Paul Cooper, Lynn Hutchinson, Debbie Cabrera and Linda Cooper





Above L-R: Linda & Paul Cooper, Pat & Greg Watson and Jim & Jo Ann Dean







Above: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson, Michael & Lynn Gulick, Dan & Debbie Cabrera, Bob Martino & Gary Dolin

Far left: We celebrated Jo Ann Deans' birthday with a cake.

Left: Michael Gulick shows off his custom made (by him) golf cart bar complete with wine glasses & storage for ice. Way to go Michael.





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 – Bonnie & Dick Wolverton cars 2007 S-550, 49k miles, Options include parktronis backup camera, Iridium silver; all services at Crown. \$32,500. 2003 SLK32 AMG black, 46k miles, all service Crown, new tires, very good condition. Great for driving events. \$16,500. Call Dick (H) 727-896-1995, (O) 727-823-1399 or dickwolv@aol.com

FOR SALE – 1997 SL 600 Mercedes, white. Never been in accident, have service records from dealer (car fax). Garage keeped. 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 - 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 – 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 – Chris Tornblom's cars: 1979 MB 300SD – car is in excellent shape, white/navy interior & no rips or tears, good tires, A/C, sun roof, new front end, good tires & excellent gas mileage.

1984 SEC 500 - fully loaded - car runs great heated seats, new tires. Call Pat 727-856-5584 to see these beauties.

FOR SALE – 1982 380 SEC, silver (original)/navy leather interior. 1985 300 TD station wagon; navy/palomino interior. New tires, A/C & battery. Call Paul Cooper @ 727-726-6837

FOR SALE - Car cover Silverguard Class 2; SLK class '99-'04 \$100; 2 CD holders - each holds 6 CD's for the trunk CD holder, both \$30; Silver MBCA front license plate, \$10; & white terry MB front seat cover for SLK, free. call Krissy @ 727-548-0313



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



Historic Walking Tour of Safety Harbor & Dinner

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday January 19, 2014

WHERE: Paradise Restaurant

443 Main St, Safety Harbor, FL 34695

(727) 725-0618

COST: \$12.00/person for the Tour

CALL: Linda & Paul Cooper • 727-726-6837

PaulJCooper@veriaon.net

TIME: 2:30 PM Walking Tour

4:00 PM Dinner

RESERVE BY: January 10th



Details: We will meet at the gazebo on Main Street in Safety Harbor (just East of the Paradise Restaurant parking lot) for a 2:30 walking tour departure. There is parking in the restaurant lot, on both sides of Main Street and behind the building across Main Street from Paradise. We will have an early dinner at Paradise overlooking the gazebo.

Directions: Proof. Proof.

FROM the EAST – Go West on I-275 to exit 39 to merge onto FL-60 W/Florida 589 Toll N toward Tampa Airport/Clearwater; merge onto W Courtney Campbell Causeway for 9.7 mi; turn right onto S Bayshore Blvd 2.5 mi to the 4 way stop, turn left on Main Street. Paradise will be .2 down on the right at 5th Avenue.

FROM the NORTH – Go South on either US Hwy 19 or SR 611 (Eastlake/McMullen Booth Rd.) to Sunset Point/Main Street (Note if you are on US 19 this is an exit to the right) turn left onto Sunset Point/Main Street. From McMullen Booth it is 1.1 through Safety Harbor and Paradise Restaurant will be on the left. If you come South on either I-75 for the Suncoast Pkwy follow the signs to Tampa airport and see the directions above from the EAST

Historic Walking Tour of Safety Harbor & Dinner January 19, 2014

Name(s)		
Phone	Cell Phone	Make check payable to:
Email_		Tampa Bay Section MBCA
Address		Mail by January 10, 2014 to: Paul & Linda Cooper
		121 Woodland Court
@ \$ 12 /person for tour	Enclosed	Safety Harbor, FL 34695
I/we will be at dinner Yes	No	



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	



The Better Way To Buy





www.CrownEurocars.com

6001 34th Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33714

We Are As Passionate About German Engineering As You.

We're Crown Eurocars. We've been selling and servicing Mercedes-Benz for decades. We're passionate about what we do. It's this kind of dedication for German vehicles and engineering that sets Crown Eurocars apart from everyone else.

If you're considering a new Mercedes-Benz or a Certified Pre-Owned Mercedes-Benz, don't settle for anything less than Crown Eurocars.

Crown Eurocars. The Better Way To Buy.



Certified Pre-Owned

by

Mercedes-Benz