

Tampa Bay Star

December 2013/January 2014

Tour of the Vinoy Read About Our Day on Pages 6 & 7



Weekend in Ft. Myers See Pages 8 & 9

Coming Events

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

February 22, 2014 DaVinci Exhibit & Dinner Bradenton, FL

> March 6-9, 2014 Amelia Island Concour D'Elegance Amelia Island, GA

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

April 13, 2014 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 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.

Jan 6 Monday 6:30PM

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

Jan 19 Sunday 2:30 PM

Walking Tour & Dinner Safety Harbor, FL

See details in THIS issue

Feb 3 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & Dinner Crown Eurocars

Feb 22 Saturday 2:00PM

DaVinci Machine Exhibition Bradenton Auditorium Bradenton, FL

See details in THIS issue

Mar 3 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & Dinner Crown Eurocars Mar 29 Saturday 6:30PM

Collier Museum Tour & Dinner Naples, FL

See details in THIS issue

Apr 7 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & Dinner Crown Eurocars

Apr 13 Sunday

Tampa Bay Downs Brunch Tampa, FL

See details in NEXT issue

May 5 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & Dinner Crown Eurocars

Jun 2 Monday 6:30PM

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

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!

I am looking forward to the coming year as we have many exciting events planned. Our club outings provide you an opportunity to have fun, see old friends and make new ones! We have been averaging 30 members per event so please join us. If you have something in mind that we have not experienced or a past outing that you would like to do again, let us know. Club officers' email addresses are included in this newsletter or can be found on the MBCA website.

Let's make a New Year's resolution to invite at least one person to join our chapter of the MBCA. They can always do as I did, which was to attend an event before joining. In doing so, I had fun and experienced the warm welcome given to me by current members. There are many Mercedes Benz lovers that we have yet to meet!!

A big "thanks" to the members, listed at the right, who renewed their membership during last 2 months and the new members who just joined.

Dan





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

Welcome New Members!

James Cridlin • Chiefland, FL
George Greene • St Petersburg, FL
Frank Titlow • Saint Petersburg, FL
James Tremmel • Ridge Manor, FL
Ron Ursin • New Port Richey, FL
Matthew Van Jelgerhuis • Clearwater, FL
Larry Wiggerton • St. Petersburg, FL
Gregory Woodbury • Tampa, FL

Renewed Members

Dennis Boone • Lakeland, FL Richard Browers • Safety Harbor, FL Adrian Byers • Tampa, FL Caroline Cerveny • Oldsmar, FL Marc Gervait Stale • Tampa, FL Helen Harageones • Oldsmar, FL Daniel Hogan • Largo, FL David Hutchinson • Safety Harbor, FL John Lary • Naples, FL Sandy Lenhart • Sarasota, FL Andrew Lockwood • Bradenton, FL Arthur Marr • Ocala, FL Harry Mead • St. Petersburg, FL Lynda Miller • Plant City, FL Lois Oberlander • Spring Hill, FL Milsa Palacios • Naples, FL Wayne Pickard • Brandon, FL Walter Piff • Clearwater, FL Robert Schmidt • Belleair Shore, FL Bud Stout • The Villages, FL Pat Watson • Longboat Key, FL Richard Wolverton • Saint Petersburg, FL

Above are the new members from October 14 through December 5, 2013 and renewed members for October & November 2013. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor

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@verizon.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: 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, turn left on Main Street. Paradise will be .2 down on the right at 5th Avenue.

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: Tampa Bay Section MBCA |
| Email | Tampa Bay Section MBCA |
| Address | Mail by January 10, 2014 to: Paul & Linda Cooper |
| @ \$ 12 /person for tour Enclosed | 121 Woodland Court Safety Harbor, FL 34695 |
| I/we will be at dinner Yes No | |



Details: The DaVinci Machines Exhibition, on loan from the Museum of Leonardo DaVinci in Florence, Italy, and is one of just three such exhibits traveling the world. It contains over 60 handcrafted inventions built from Leonardo's 500 – year old designs and is the life work of three generations of Florentine artisans. Featured machines on display include the DaVinci bicycle, hang glider, and air screw, the precursor to the modern-day helicopter. Also, on display are two of Leonardo's revolutionary robotic inventions, the life-size robot drummer and for the first time ever, the secrets behind Leonardo's legendary mechanical lion. This exhibition models are presented in four major themes: Military machines, Flying machines, Nautical & Hydraulic machines as well as devices and inventions illustrating the Principles of Mechanics. The uniquely interactive machines are a popular aspect of each exhibition as visitors can touch and handle these models to gain a first-hand appreciation of how they work. Explanatory notes and illustrative panels with Leonardo's drawings from his codices accompany each model.

We will have a docent guided tour that will be about and hour and a half. There is free parking Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays at the Bradenton Auditorium parking lot. After our tour will go 1.4 miles across the bridge to Riverhouse Reef & Grill for an early dinner (B on the map).

Directions: The map to the right is Bradenton & the museum is marked with the A in the bubble. I decided that most everyone has a GPS in the car or on their phones. So use the museum address in the Important Info box to find the way with specific directions from your home. Google maps or MapQuest also will allow you to print directions from your computer.

DaVinci Machine Exhibition Saturday, February 22, 2014

Name(s) Phone Cell Phone __@ \$ 11 /person for tour ___ Enclosed I/we will be stay for dinner Yes No

DaVinci Machine Exhibition

Important Info

Saturday, February 22, 2014 WHEN:

WHERE: **The Bradenton Auditorium**

> 1005 1st Ave W Bradenton, FL 34205 Phone 941-209-1236 http://discoverdavinci.com/ **Riverhouse Reef and Grill**

995 Riverside Dr. Palmetto, FL

COST: \$11.00/person for the Tour

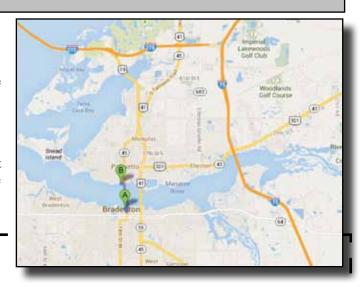
CALL: Ed & Carolyn Jarotz • 727-421-5052

ed.jarotz@gmail.com

TIME: 2:00 PM for the tour

4:00 PM gather for dinner

February 15th **RESERVE BY:**



Mail by February 15, 2014 to: Ed & Carolyn Jarotz 8091 Candlewood Road Seminole FL 33777-2050

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

Vinoy Tour & Lunch

St. Petersburg, FL October 19, 2013 By Connie Dolin

In October the Mercedes Club visited the Vinoy Renaissance Hotel in St. Petersburg for a docent-led historical tour. This event generated a lot of interest, with 42 people attending.

We learned that the idea of a waterfront hotel began with a bet that famed golfer Walter Hagen could drive a golf ball off the face of the pocket watch of Aymer Vinoy Laughner, a wealthy businessman. He did and Mr. Laughner purchased the land where the ball landed to build a grand resort. The Vinoy Park Hotel was built in just 10 months and opened on New Year's Eve 1925.

Despite the fact that the "Boom Era" was ending as the Vinoy opened, it was still considered one of the country's most prestigious destinations for the world's rich and famous. The Vinoy survived the Great Depression and was known as the "grand dame" of St. Petersburg, attracting wealthy Northerners anxious to escape harsh winters.

During World War II, the Vinoy ceased operations as a hotel and became a housing and training center for military cooks and bakers. In 1944, the Vinoy re-opened as a hotel; however, the Vinoy's resistance to install air conditioning prompted people to go elsewhere and it fell out of favor. Lack of maintenance forced the hotel to close its doors in 1974.

For 18 years the Vinoy was a refuge for the homeless and SWAT teams who used it for practice. It was saved by voter referendum and a two-year reconstruction began. It re-opened in 1992 with a new guest tower, tennis complex, golf course, pools and spas, a 74-slip marina and, of course, air conditioning.

We enjoyed a delicious three course luncheon in the famous Marchands Bar and Grill after the tour.

On the Cover: Entrance to the Vinoy & the Chihuly chandelier in the ballroom

Right: Gary Dolin, Scott Suits, Rosemarie Bannagott, Connie Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson, Elaine & Jimmie Lee and Joan & Ken Pitts

All photos in this issue taken by Dave Hutchinson



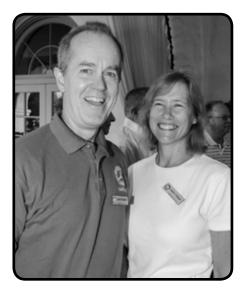
Above: Roxie & Robert Lewis, Lynn Hutchinson, Event

Coordinator, Connie Dolin and Linda Cooper

Below left: Our docent

Below right: John Thomas & Nancy Pease









Weekend in Ft. Myers

Ft. Myers, FL November 9-11, 2013 Dan Cabrera

wenty-two members can thank Nancy and Jim Merada for organizing a great outing to the Edison/Ford Estates in Ft.

Myers and our stay at the Holiday Inn Express in historic Ft. Myers. The first night we dined at Nervous Nellie's where we enjoyed outstanding seafood and "met" a 3-year-old alligator up close. Connie Dolin held the alligator while we were educated by its caregiver. I probably should mention that the alligator's jaws were taped shut for Connie's safety......

The next day we took a guided tour through the Edison/Ford Estate. We saw their homes, Edison's pool, office and lab. As we stepped back in time, wemarveled at the beauty of the grounds, the gigantic banyan tree and the museum that held many examples of his inventions. It also gave insight to the relationship between Edison and Ford and their friendship with Firestone. It still amazes me that they wore coats and ties on camping trips.

For dinner that evening, we went to "Two Meatballs in the Kitchen." As the name suggests, it is an Italian restaurant. The portions were huge and delicious. And as always, we enjoyed the fun and the friendship.



Above: Event planners Nancy & Jim Merada

Above: Lynn Hutchinson, Gary & Connie Dolin and Dan & Norma Konkol



Above L-R: Dan & Debbie Cabrera, Lynn & Michael Gulick and Pat & Greg Watson

Group on the cover: Carolyn & Ed Jarotz in front of Pat Watson, Greg Watson, Roxie & Robert Lewis, Michael & Lynn Gulick, Jim Merada, statue of Edison, Lynn Hutchinson, Dan Cabrera, Jo Ann & Jim Dean, Gary & Connie Dolin, Nancy Merada, Linda Cooper, Debbie Cabrera & Paul Cooper

Above: Connie Dolin holds a baby alligator Above far: Paul & Linda Cooper, Pat & Carolyn & Ed Jarotz



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 car – 1 left: 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



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Southeast Region Sections' Event & Get-Together

Event Schedule

Friday - 3/28/14

Saturday morning. Optional for those that would like to drive on Friday instead of

Dinner on your own (20 restaurants within 4 miles of hotel) Check into hotel – Best Western Naples or Hawthorne Suites

Saturday - 3/29/14

<u>6:30 - 7:00 am</u> – Leave Home

9:45 am – (1)Meet at the C H Motor Cars/the Collier Collection

Artis-Naples (Baker Museum)

- <u>10:00 am 12:00 pm –</u> Collier Collection Tour **OR**
- :00 pm 2:30 pm (2)Lunch Jack's River Bar 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - The Baker Museum (Artis-Naples)

<u>3:00 pm – 4:30 pm – **(3)**Tech Session -Mercedes-Benz of</u>

<u>6:00 pm</u> – **(5) Dinner/Dancing/Raffles at Return Home <u>4:30 pm</u> – **(4)** Check into Hotel of choice <u>OR</u>

**Dress Country Club Casual (no denim/no shorts/no flip flops)

The Club at Olde Cypress

Sunday - 3/30/14 -Drive back Home

NOTE:

The Mercedes-Benz ______Section has been allocated _____itickets for the Collier Collection, out of 100 tickets. All sections have been allocated tickets according to their memberships.

either way.

It will be on a first come first serve basis. You will receive a confirmation

tickets for the Collier Collection are available You have a choice of attending the Artis-Naples (Baker Museum) if no more

bottom right of this flyer). The check for the monies for the tour, lunch and dinner should be made Section (see total cost to member on the

RSVP is needed by February 14, 2014. Mail to:

Scott Suits • 795 County Rd. #1 • Southwind #205 • Palm Harbor, FL 34683 Call: (727) 460-5739 Email: suits@ij.net

Details:

1. Tours: Collier Collection OR Baker Museum



- Tour time is from 10:00 am 12:00 pm
- C H Motors Cars/the Collier Collection- \$15.00 No cameras allowed-No large purses

2500 Horseshoe Dr. South • Naples, FL 34104 Phone - 239-643-5783



0R

http://artisn<u>aples.org/museum</u>

- Tour time is from 10:30 am 12:30 pm –
- No cameras allowed OR No large purses Artis—Naples (Baker Museum) - \$10.00 per person 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd. • Naples, Florida 34108-2740
- Lunch 1:00 pm 2:30 pm Boxed lunch at

http://www.jacksriverbarnaples.com

- Jack's River Bar-
- \$18.00 per person (includes tax & gratuity)
- Naples, FL 34104 475 North Road



- ယ္ <u>Tech Session</u> – 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
- 501 Airport Road South Mercedes-Benz of Naples Naples, FL 34102

their hotel reservations Mention MBCA for discount 4. Hotel: Everyone will be responsible for making

\$164.00 + tax = \$180.00Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Naples Pine Ridge

3557 Pine Ridge Road • Naples, FL, 34109

Best Western Naples Plaza Hotel

\$109.00 + tax = \$120.006400 Dudley Drive • Naples, FL 34105

Phone: (239) 643-6655 Fax: (239) 643-4063 es-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-Naples-Plaza-

<u> Hotel/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=10280</u>

Cypress Dinner/Dancing/Raffles—The Club at Olde

ttp://www.oldecypress.com

\$40.00 per person (includes tax & gratuity) 7165 Treeline Drive

Naples, FL 34119

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Hors d'oeuvres 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Dinner and Dancing

Dinner menu will be emailed to participating member

shorts/no flip flops) There will be 2 cash bars **Dress Country Club Casual (no denim/no

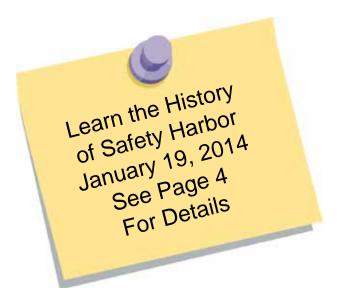
Total Cost to member:

Tours: Collier- \$15.00 per person Or Club section to collect for reservations

<u>Dinner</u>-The Club at Olde Cypress - \$40.00 per person <u>Lunch</u> – Jack's River Bar - \$18.00 per persor Museum - \$10.00 /person

<u>\$73.00 per person</u> Or \$<u>69.00 per person</u> Total Amount - make check payable to Tamps MBCA –

Hotel room - Hawthorn - \$180.00 Or Best Western - \$120.00 lember to reserve:



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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