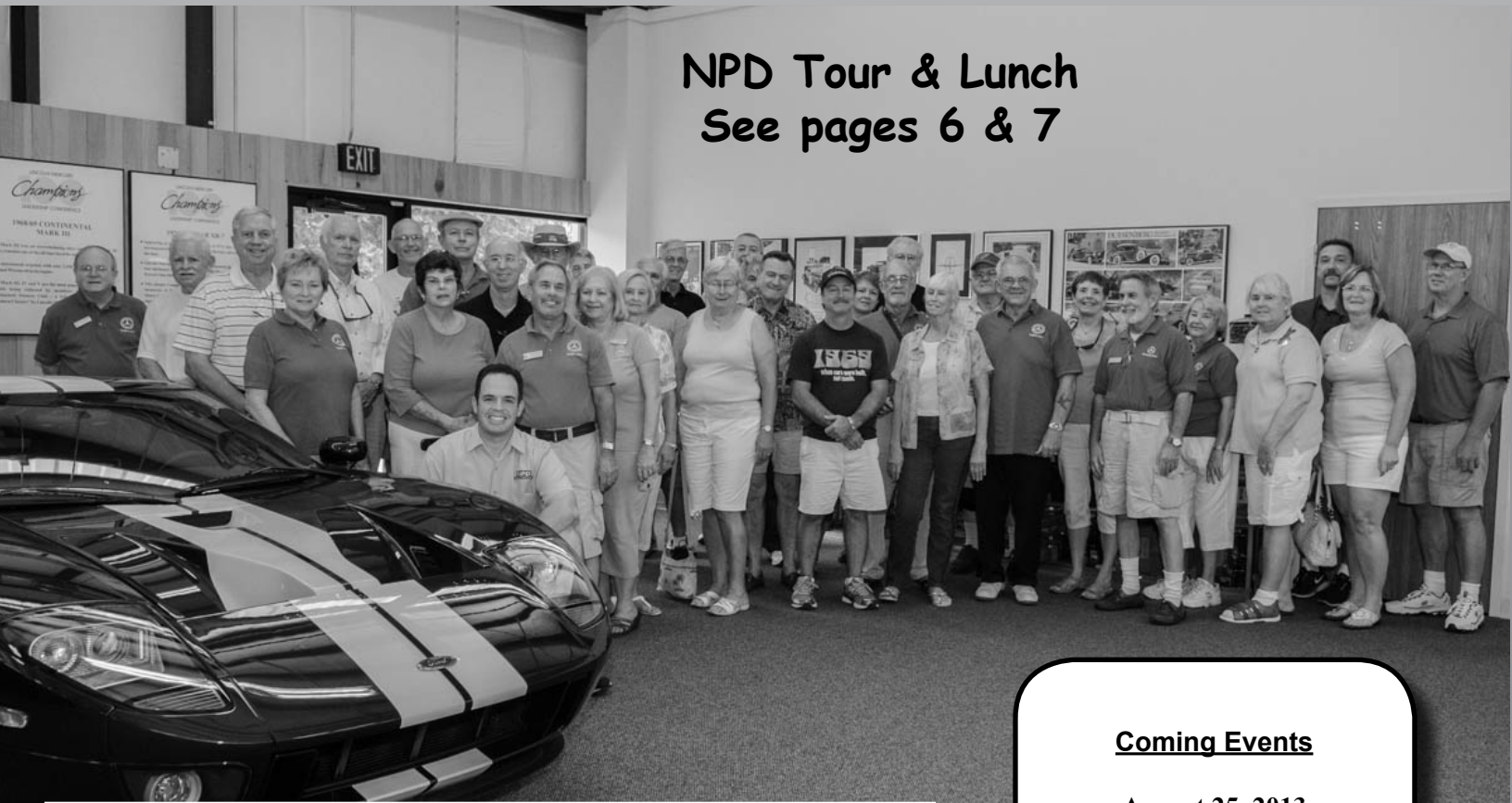




Tampa Bay Star

August/September 2013

NPD Tour & Lunch
See pages 6 & 7



FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Coming Events

August 25, 2013
Fun Road Rally & Lunch
Clearwater, FL

September 21, 2013
Airboat Ride
Inverness, FL

October 19, 2013
Vinoy Tour & Lunch
St. Petersburg, FL

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

Holocaust Museum & Dinner
See Pages 8 & 9

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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 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.

Aug 25 Sunday 10 AM

Fun Road Rally
Clearwater, FL

See details in THIS issue

Sep 9 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars
6001 34th Street North
St Petersburg, FL
Election of club officers

Sep 21 Saturday

Wild Bill's Airboat & lunch
Inverness, FL

See details in THIS issue

Oct 7 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Oct 19 Saturday

Tour of Vinoy & lunch
St Petersburg, FL

See details in THIS issue

Nov 4 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Nov 9-10 Sunday or weekend

Ford/Edison home tours
Ft. Myers, FL

See details in THIS issue

Dec 2 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Dec 8 Sunday

Holiday Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa

Jan 6 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Feb 3 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!

We hope that you are having a great summer and that you have plans to attend our great Tampa Bay Section events for the remainder of the year.

In June well over 30 members and even some guests from the Pontiac Club joined us for a tour of the Ocala National Parts Depot classic car collection. This was a really nice private opportunity since tours of the facility are only offered to car clubs. More than 200 cars from the 60s and earlier were on display including Ford's 50 millionth and 100 millionth Ford. All of the cars that made our hearts skip a beat like the '57 Chevy convertible and '55 Ford Thunderbird were on display. We all went to Ruby Tuesday's for an early dinner following the event. Thanks to Len and Ben Berman for organizing this event. Such a great event!

In July and equally large group of members toured The Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. This was a moving event and both of our docents were exceptional. If you haven't been to this museum I suggest that you plan to go. It is a true treasure for the Tampa Bay Area. Dinner followed at Harvey's 4th Street Grill. This is a favorite restaurant of mine. All of our members that joined us raved about the food and the service.

In August, club member and MBCA Southeast Regional Director Scott Suits has planned a road rally which will be leaving from the parking lot at the Kohl's Department Store across the street from Countryside Mall. This is your opportunity to show how clever and punctual that you are in following the clues. The restaurant at the end of the rally will remain a surprise. Details are in this issue of the newsletter.



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

We will be traveling to the Inverness area for an airboat ride and dining in September. Michael and Lynn Gulick are in charge of this event which I am sure will be a lot of fun. Check this newsletter for additional details and to sign up.

Also on the club calendar are a tour of the historical Vinoy Hotel (October) with a meal, an overnight trip to Ft. Myers to visit the Thomas Edison and Henry Ford Winter Estates (November) and of course, our annual Holiday Brunch at the Safety Harbor Spa in December.

Our annual election of officers will be held in September. We are looking for new folks to take the club forward including a new President. If you are interested, please let one of our officers know that you would like to run.

We hope to see you at a coming event.

Dave

Welcome New Members!

Robert Brennan • Largo, FL
Robert Droubie • Largo, FL
Paul Ford • Southern Shores, NC
Lance Meyerson • Tampa, FL
Susan Ricker • Indian Rocks Beach, FL

Above are the new members for June and July up to the 12th of August. We look forward to meeting you at many of our events. – Editor

Wild Bill's Airboat Tour & Lunch

Details: Wild Bill's airboat tour was seen on America's got Talent and provides a unique tour of the local river, Florida's exotic wildlife, alligators and more.

After the boat tour we will drive to the restaurant which is just across the road from Wild Bill's. It looks deceptively small, but it expands in the back and can easily handle our group. The Fisherman is a favorite among the local residents, "snow birds", campers and vacationers and is family owned and operated. We have them booked for noon for lunch and will order off the menu.

The cost of \$32 per person is a group rate - the usual admission is \$45. If you find you can only come for part of the day, indicate on your registration coupon so we have an accurate count for all the events.

Directions: Inverness is located west of The Villages. From Tampa, go North on I-75 to exit #329 (This is where the FL turnpike joins I-75). Cross the turnpike and exit I-75 to the right. Turn left onto Gulf of Lake Highway (Hwy 44), cross under I-75 and travel west for 9 miles. Wild Bill's will be on the left after you cross over the river and the restaurant will be on the right 100 yds. further. You will need to pass Wild Bill's and make a U-turn just in front of the restaurant—the nearest turn around.

Extra: Lynn & Michael will be hosting a dinner get together Saturday night at their home in The Villages for all that want to come. Their address is 2299 Fringe Tree Trail, Village of Buttonwood, The Villages, FL. Local hotels are available.



Important Info

WHEN: Saturday September 21, 2013

WHERE: **Wild Bill's Airboat Tours**
12430 E Gulf Lake Highway
Inverness, FL 34450
352-726-6060
<http://www.wildbillsairboattour.com/>

The Fisherman Restaurant
12311 E Gulf Lake Highway
Inverness, FL 34450
352-637-5888
<http://fishermansflorida.com/>

COST: \$32/person for boat ride. Lunch off menu

CALL: Lynn & Michael Gulick • 352-259-1952
magulick@centurylink.net

TIME: 10:00 first boat leaves. Be at the office by 9:30 for a briefing & to walk the river. Noon for lunch

RESERVE BY: September 13th

Wild Bill's Airboat Tour & Lunch September 21, 2013

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ @ \$32/person for boat tour _____ Enclosed

I/we will stay for lunch Yes No

I/we will be at dinner Yes No

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by September 13, 2013 to:

Lynn & Michael Gulick
2299 Fringe Tree Trail
Village of Buttonwood
The Villages, FL 32162

Vinoy History Tour & Luncheon

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday October 19, 2013
WHERE: The Vinoy Renaissance
St. Petersburg Resort & Golf Club
501 5th Avenue NE
St. Petersburg, FL
COST: \$25/person
CALL: Connie Dolin • 941-794-1003
C.Dolin@verizon.net
TIME: 10:30 AM for tour - lunch after
RESERVE BY: **October 10th**



Details: Connie Dolin is planning this day for us. Originally open for business in 1926, almost coming under the wrecking ball in the 1980's, and then extensive historically correct renovations, this St. Petersburg landmark truly has an interesting history. Here is what their website says about our tour & lunch:

Lunch, learn, and live the history of the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort & Golf Club on a docent-guided tour of the historic building and gardens. Listen to tales of bygone gala events, the famous guests who frequented them, and visit a comprehensive history exhibit.

The hour-long History Tour departs from the Navigator desk at 10:30 a.m., followed by a three-course lunch in the stunning, historic dining room, Marchand's Bar & Grill..

The \$25 cost includes tour, 3 course lunch & parking. The June menu has smoked BBQ beef short ribs, herb roasted chicken breast or pasta with shrimp as the entree choices. As of press time we do not have the Fall menu. Connie will be contacting you after we get the Fall menu for your choice.

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

Directions: Make your way to I-275 in St. Petersburg to Exit 23 and merge onto I-375 E toward The Pier. Continue onto 4th Ave N for 0.6 mi then make a slight left onto 4th Ave NE for 236 ft. Turn left onto Beach Dr NE for 0.2 mi.; turn right onto 6th Ave NE. Destination will be on the right in 292 ft – 501 5th Ave NE St Petersburg, FL 33701

Vinoy History Tour & Luncheon October 19, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$25.00/person – Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by October 10, 2013 to:

Connie & Gary Dolin

8111 12th Ave NW

Bradenton, FL 34209

Nations Parts Depot Tour

Ocala, FL
June 22, 2013

By Dave Hutchinson

In June the club traveled to the National Parts Depot in Ocala to tour their collection of classic cars. By the way, what is the difference between a vintage car and a classic car? I would consider cars of the 50s and 60s classic cars. I would call vintage cars automobiles that were built in the early part of the 20th Century...before the 50s like the Model T Fords, Packards, Studebakers and cars of that ilk. The cars at NPD were mostly "classic" autos like the 57 Chevy convertible, the 55 Ford Thunderbird and the Corvettes of the late 50s. It was breathtaking just to walk into the enormous display area (600,000 square feet!) and be greeted by more than 200 of these wonderful cars...to smell that vintage leather, peer in through the windows to their deco dashboards and look under the hood of those dream cars.

Once again, we had a wonderful guide who told us stories about many of these cars. Many of the vehicles were one of a kind. In the NPD collections were both the 50 and 100 millionth Fords ever built including the signatures of Henry and William Clay Ford.

This was also a special event since NPD only allows car clubs to tour the collection. There were members that attended that had heard about this collection for years, but were thrilled to have to the opportunity to actually see it. It was also another great chance for our Tampa Bay Section members to have a chance to socialize.

Following the event our group got together for an early dinner at a nearby Ruby Tuesdays. Thanks so much to Len and Ben Berman for organizing this event.

Right: Photographer Dave Hutchinson poses with the life size "Kodak Girl". Besides the cars, there are display cases with EVERY Kodak camera model along with historical camera & film ads.

All photos in this issue taken by Dave.



Above: Lynn Hutchinson, Lee Doughty, event planner, Len Berman and Linda & Paul Cooper
Right: Our guide





Above: Mark Raciappa, Len & Ben Berman and Linda Raciappa.



William Clay Ford
12/14/78

Jimmy Ford
December 14, 1978



Above: One of a kind - never driven on the road



Holocaust Museum

St. Petersburg, FL
July 14, 2013
By Lynn Hutchinson

On July 14 our event was to tour the Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. We had 34 members attending. What a fabulous museum. If you are interested in World War II history, this is the museum for you to visit. Our two docents were excellent and so knowledgeable. It was the fastest hour and half tour I have ever attended. I personally learned so much that I never knew. Dave and I had visited a Holocaust Museum a few years ago in Houston and I thought this would be the same. Our 4 year-old granddaughter was visiting and she attended with us. In the Houston museum, there were a lot of graphic photos and I thought if this was the same, I would have to take Savannah outside. However, there weren't those pictures and she walked around with us but I honestly don't think she knew what it was all about.

The Museum had 3 floors of exhibits...the top floor was wooden sculptures and pictures of French children who died in the Holocaust. The second floor had exhibits and the bottom floor held artifacts and even a transport train boxcar from that time. Anthony, our main docent, who was British and not Jewish, was a fabulous guide...he knew everything about World War II. He works on Wednesdays and Sundays. If you missed this outing, I highly recommend you go and see it on those days with Anthony as your guide.

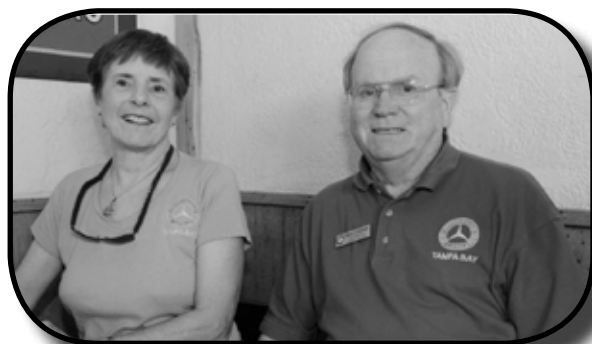


Above: Bob & Catherine Martino, Linda Cooper, event planner Lynn Hutchinson with granddaughter Savannah Puter

After our tour, we all went to Harvey's 4th Street Bar and Grill to eat an early dinner. Contrary to the name, it really is a nice restaurant with excellent food. We were given the back room and everyone had a great meal. They have fabulous grouper sandwiches, which is what I had, as well as other seafood and salads..



Above L-R: Dan Cabrera, Michael Gulick, Gary & Connie Dolin, Lynn Gulick and Debbie Cabrera



Above L-R: Linda & Paul Cooper



Below: Ben Berman, Robert & Roxie Lewis & Len Berman

Below right: Lou Dughi, Krissy Bacon, and Ken & Joan Pitts



Above: Jim & Nancy Merada, Carolyn Jarotz, Ben Berman & Ed Jarotz



Oktoberfest at Crown Eurocars

October 12, 2013

EDITOR NOTE I received this email today:

It is Matt Taneja from Crown Eurocars (also a member of the MB Club of America). I wanted to let you know that the 3rd Annual OCTOBERFEST will be held at Crown Eurocars on Saturday, October 12. It would be great if you could let the Club members know that they are welcome to join us for good German drink, food, conversation, games, music, and fun! All are welcome!

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**, 47k miles, all options including parktronic backup camera, Iridium silver; all services at Crown. \$32,500. **2003 SLK32 AMG** black, 43k 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 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.

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.

2001 Jaguar S Class 4 door - car in perfect shape gold in color. 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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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

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). You can purchase voucher(s) at check in for \$5/person for breakfast at the hotel. This has to be done the day before you eat. 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 _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ @ \$ 16 /person for Ford/Edison tour _____ Enclosed

I/we will be at dinner Saturday Yes No

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by October 23, 2013 to:

Nancy & Jim Merada
13528 Monalee Ave.
Seminole, FL 33776

Vinoy History Tour
&
Luncheon
See page 5
For details

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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