



Tampa Bay Star

June/July 2013

Tarpon Springs
See pages 8 & 9



Peace River Nature Cruise
See Pages 6 & 7

Coming Events

July 14, 2013
Holocaust Museum & Dinner
St. Petersburg, FL

August 15, 2013
Fun Road Rally & Lunch
Clearwater, FL

September 21, 2013
Airboat Ride
Northern Florida

October 19, 2013
Vinoy Tour & Lunch
St. Petersburg, 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 July & September and sometimes 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.

Jun 22 Sunday

Car collection tour
National Parts Depot
Ocala, FL

Jul 1 Monday 6:30PM

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

Jul 14 Sunday 1:30-6:30 PM

Florida Holocaust Museum
55 5th St South
St Petersburg, FL 33701

See details in THIS issue

Aug 5 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

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
Election of club officers

Sep 21 Saturday

Air Boat Ride
North Florida

See some 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 some details in THIS issue

Nov 4 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Dec 8 Sunday

Holiday Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa

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!

Wow, this has been a really busy year with Mercedes Benz club events and there are so many more monthly get-togethers on our agenda for the remainder of the year.

In April we took a delightful 3 hour cruise on the Peace River. Once again this was a very successful event with almost 30 members and guests attending. Some of us had lunch together prior to the cruise at The Village Fish Market Restaurant in Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda.

In May we visited historic Tarpon Springs. A highlight of the day was cruising in the Nicholas VII on the Anclote River. We enjoyed watching Doug the helmeted diver go down to the bottom of the river and bring up a sponge just like they did many years ago. We all laughed when we learned that our designated sponge diver was from Montana! (Do they even have water there?) The interesting narration on the boat was done by one of Tarpon Springs original Greek sponge divers. Later, the women shopped while a few husbands found a local watering hole. We all joined together later and ate at the wildly popular Greek Restaurant, Hellas. I have heard only great things from the folks that joined us for dinner. Lynn and I ordered a flaming saganaki for our table. Opa!

In June Len Berman has arranged an outing to the Ocala National Parts Depot. Reportedly they have a huge collection of vintage cars on display. This promises to be a really nice day. See details in the last issue & on the club web site.

In July, we will be touring The Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. Possibly we will hear from a survivor of this horrific event. This promises to be a moving event and we are looking forward to a large, enthusiastic turnout. Dinner will be following at Harvey's 4th Street Grill. This restaurant is an old haunt of mine from my working days and I can personally recommend their Chicken Walnut Salad.



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

In August, club member and MBCA Southeast Regional Director, Scott Suits, is planning a Fun Rally. These driving events are always fun and Scott promises a nice dining surprise at the conclusion of the event, but the location will be a surprise so you need to put this event on your calendar now. Details on this and other pending events are in this edition of the newsletter.

In September, once again we will be traveling to south of the Ocala area for an airboat ride and dining. Michael and Lynn Gulick are in charge of this event which I am sure will be a lot of fun.

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.

We have tried to be as diligent as possible in contacting our members by e-mail to advise them that we have received their payment for our events. So, please include your e-mail address when you send in your reservation for an event. If you don't hear from the event chairman please follow-up to make sure that your registration has been received. We don't want anyone to be left out because we failed to receive their registration. And, we always encourage our members to bring new ideas for monthly activities to our monthly meeting at Crown Mercedes on the 1st Monday of every month.

Dave

Welcome New Members!

Leslie East • Sarasota
Lee Jenkins • Sarasota
Thomas Schaefer • Palm Harbor
Richard Tracy • St Pete Beach

Above are the new members for April and May up to the 4th of June – Editor

Florida Holocaust Museum Tour & Dinner

Details: We will have a guided tour of the museum that will be an hour and a half to two hours with dinner following at 4 PM.. As usual, if only part of the event fit in your schedule, you can come just for the museum or dinner. Please indicate on the coupon if you will stay to eat so the restaurant is prepared for a crowd. They have a room for us. If the museum tour conflicts, you can join us just for dinner. Please call Dave & Lynn so we have you in the restaurant count.

Here is what their website says: The Florida Holocaust Museum honors the memory of millions of innocent men, women and children who suffered or died in the Holocaust. The Museum is dedicated to teaching the members of all races and cultures the inherent worth and dignity of human life in order to prevent future genocides.

The Museum is home to the permanent exhibition: History, Heritage and Hope, which uses original artifacts, historical photographs and documents to tell the story of the Holocaust with a special emphasis on the personal stories of local survivors. It also houses the permanent exhibition, Kaddish in Wood: Woodcarvings by Dr. Herbert Savel. These carvings are of French children who were victims of the Holocaust.

Directions: From all directions: Make your way to St. Petersburg. If you are **GOING SOUTH** on I-275. Take exit 23A on the left to merge onto I-375 E toward Baywalk/The Pier. Go 1.3 mi and when 375 ends continue onto 4th Ave N. Go 466 ft and Turn right onto 5th St N. for .4 mi. The museum will be on the right. They have a small free parking lot that is a right turn **BEFORE** the museum. If the lot is full, there is a public parking lot across the street or there is on street parking.

If you are **GOING NORTH** on I-275 the exit number is 23 merge onto I-375 E toward The Pier otherwise the directions are the same.

Harvey's Fourth Street Grill is about 2 miles from the museum and they have their own parking lot.

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday July 14, 2013

WHERE: **Florida Holocaust Museum**
55 5th St S St Petersburg, FL 33701
727-820-0100
<http://www.flholocaustmuseum.org/>
Harveys Fourth Street Grill
3121 4th St N St Petersburg, FL 33704
727-821-6516
<http://harveys4thstreetgrill.com/>

COST: \$9/person for museum. Dinner off menu

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

TIME: 1:30 - 3:30PM museum tour
4:00PM for dinner

RESERVE BY: **July 5th.** (or first 50 people)

Limited to 50 registrations

Florida Holocaust Museum Tour & Dinner July 14, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ @ \$9/person _____ Enclosed

I will stay for dinner Yes No

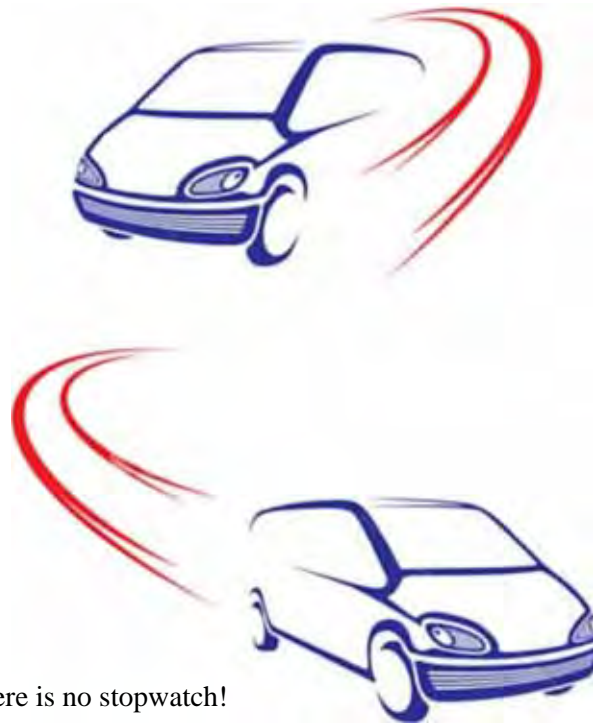
Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by July 5, 2013 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Fun Road Rally & Lunch

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday August 25, 2013
WHERE: Panera Bread
2532 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL
COST: \$15/car for rally
Off menu at a local restaurant after
CALL: Scott Suits
727-460-5739
suits@ij.net
TIME: 10:00 AM first car off
RESERVE BY: August 18th



Details:

There is no stopwatch!
This is not a timed event!
This will be about a two hour rally.

Rally master Scott O. Suits will hand printed sheets that have turn by turn directions of the course to follow and clues to questions that you will pass on your trip. These may be road signs, businesses, mailboxes, or any other devious item we can come up with. Turn in your directions with completed answers to the clues at the finish line.

The closest to a pre-determined mileage for the course and the most correct answers to our questions will determine the winners. There will be two trophies per car (pilot & navigator) for the first three winning cars. The end will be at a restaurant but that will not be identified in advance. Should you get lost for any reason you will have a sealed envelope that will identify the ending location of the rally but opening the envelope will disqualify your car as you are expected to find the restaurant but following your instructions. Come join us in a fun filled two or so hours.

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

Directions: Panera Bread is across SR 580 from Dillard's and Westfield (Countryside) Mall & in front of Kohl's. The mall is located on the southeast corner of SR 580 and US Highway 19 N. From points North & South - take US Highway 19 to SR 580. At the exit go East on 580. There is a traffic light for the mall/Kohl's, turn left & then right into the parking lot. From Tampa come across the Courtney Campbell Causway (SR 60) & go North on either McMullen Booth Road or US Highway 19. From McMullen Booth, turn left on 580, Panera Bread is just before the 4th traffic light & is a right turn.

Fun Road Rally & Dinner August 25, 2013

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$15.00/per car – Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by August 18, 2013 to:

Scott O. Suits

795 CR #1 Lot 205

Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Peace River Nature Cruise

Punta Gorda, FL
April 13, 2013
By Lynn Hutchinson

We had an amazing event on April 13. What a lovely day it was. We drove to Punta Gorda to the Fishermen's Village. It is a unique shopping area with lots of nice shops and restaurants. Some of us arrived early, so we had time to check out the lovely shops and have a great lunch. The weather forecast had been not the greatest, but we lucked out. It turned out sunny and no rain. It was a beautiful day for a boat ride. Over 40 members boarded the boat at 12:30 and it left the dock at 1 p.m. for a 3 ½ hour ride. We had a wonderful tour guide that was very interesting and knowledgeable. The scenery was beautiful and we saw lots of birds and alligators.

This was the first time Dave and I spent much time in Punta Gorda. We decided that the boat ride was so nice that we will definitely put it on our itinerary when we have visitors from out of town. This is one of the neat things about our Club's events. The club shows us places that we have not been to before. Florida is an amazing state with such a variety of things to do and places to go.



Above: Nancy & Jim Merada
Right: Our guide



Below: Debbie & Can Cabrera



Above: Lynn Hutchinson, Bob & Ann Beltz, Linda Cooper, Jim & Nancy Merada, Norm Ross, Don & Splash Eckerson, Paul Cooper, Betty Hendrix, Catherine & Bob Martino behind and Connie & Gary, Dolin, Victoria Ross in front of Paul Lizzo, Ellen Lizzo, Debbie & Dan Cabrera and Scott Suits



Above: Connie & Gary Dolin, Paul & Linda Cooper, Dan & Debbie Cabrera Bob & Catherine Martino and Lynn Hutchinson



Left: Scott Suits & Betty Hendrix



Above: Bob & Catherine Martino



Above: Victoria & Norm Ross

Above left: Ellen Lizzo, Ellens sister Linda Griffith & Paul Lizzo

On the Cover: John Thomas & Nancy Pease down front with the diver, L-R: Lynn & Michael Gulick, Linda Cooper, Connie & Gary Dolin in front of Catherine & Bob Martino, Nancy & Jim Merada, Pat Tornblom, Debbie Cabrera in front of Lou Dughi & Betty Hendrix, Lynn Hutchinson in front of Scott Suits, Paul Cooper & Mary Lounge in front of Dan Cabrera, Elaine & Jimmie Lee with their daughter Cammie Hill, Ed & Carolyn Jarotz and Don & Splash Eckerson

All photos in this issue taken by Dave Hutchinson

Society Island, French Polynesia
May 1-13, 2013
By Linda Cooper

As some of you may have read or heard, Paul & I along with Dave & Lynn Hutchinson traveled aboard the Paul Gauguin cruise line to several of the Society Islands in French Polynesia early in May this year. On this page and the bottom of page 9 are some of the interesting MB photos taken by Dave during this awesome vacation. Please send us some of your interesting MB photos for future issues.



Above: "Le Truck" on Bora Bora

Tarpon Springs

Tarpon Springs, FL
May 19, 2013
By Linda Cooper

Well if you already read Dave's presidents message then you know some of what we experienced during our afternoon in Tarpon Springs. Paul & I live close to there but don't seem to get there except with either a planned day with the club or when our out of state friends/relatives visit. As Dave said our afternoon began on the St. Nicholas VII boat and a trip up the intercoastal where we saw the remains of the fishing boat that burned last month, large water front houses and a demonstration and explanation of the sponge harvest industry that Tarpon Springs is famous for. It seems that out of the 30 plus members attending, I was the only one who had previously been on this excursion and that was some twenty plus years ago. My sister was visiting with my niece & nephew (they are both now in their early 30's) and they were in grade school. I remember them being fascinated with the diving demonstration and the fact that sponges grew in the ocean (they live in Ohio). Our son & daughter were also along on the trip (some 10 years older than their cousins) and commented the demonstration was interesting but somewhat staged. Can't put anything over on teenagers!!

After a brief pause for a group photo, we were off "shopping" and the guys relaxing with beer. We located a small shop (that Lynn Gulick found) that sold carvings made from the tagua nut (from South America) all made by the shop owners, (husband, wife & their son) – the guys did the carving & she made them into very interesting jewelry. I bought a Christmas tree ornament that looks like a slice of carved ivory.



Above: Nancy Pease poses with the diver

When we were all shopped out we headed to Hellas for a great meal. This was our first time at Hellas as our favorite Tarpon restaurant is Pauls Shrimp House with their Greek salads & peel & eat shrimp sold by the ½ pound. Hellas fare is more traditional Greek food and was delicious and the service was top notch. After eating too much and good bye's and see you at the June event, we were on our way home. It was a great afternoon and you missed this, put Tarpon Springs on your bucket list of places you need to visit in our area.



Above L-R: Pat Tornblom, Mary Lounge, Krissy Bacon, Lou Dughi, Don & Splash Eckerson and Lynn & Michael Gulick enjoy the view & listen to our guide





Above: the diver finds a sponge

Below: Nancy & Jim Merada and Ed & Carolyn Jarotz take a break in Tarpon Springs



Above: Lynn Hutchinson, John Thomas, Nancy Pease, Lind & Paul Cooper, Jimmie & Elaine Lee with their daughter Cammie Hill, Scott Suits & Betty Hendrix, Jim & Nancy Merada, Carolyn & Ed Jarotz, Gary & Connie Dolin, Catherine & Bob Martino nad Debbie & Dan Cabrera



Above: the fire house on Bora Bora

Right: a city bus in Papeete, Tahiti

All photos taken by Dave Hutchinson



Above: a MB food truck called Roulottes in Papeete, Tahiti. These roulottes (about a dozen or more) arrive along the water front every evening from 6-10 pm and provide the best food with waitress service right to your table. One of them had more than 80 choices on the menu all from a kitchen about as big as a good size walk in closet!!

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 - 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

FOR SALE - 2008 ML 320 CDI 4Matic Purchased & serviced at local MB dealer. Silver/gray leather interior. Warranty till 2014. Interior ambient light package, premium Pak I and II. Hands free communication. Wood steering wheel. Garaged. 813 230-7370 or 813 961-6666. \$27,000

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. Call Paul Cooper @ 727-726-6837/1985

300 TD station wagon; navy/palomino interior. New tires, A/C & battery. Call Paul Cooper @ 727-726-6837

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.



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Air Boat Ride in Northern Florida

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday September 21, 2013
WHERE: Northern Florida
COST: See next issue
CALL:
TIME:
RESERVE BY: September 14th

Details: Michael Gulick is planning this event & had some details for us at Tarpon Springs last month. Several days after our day in Tarpon, Michael & Lynn departed for 3 weeks of touring Germany & Switzerland with their 2 daughters and son.

None of us kept the details he had before they left, so this page is to let you know the date & that in the August/September issue we will have more details and a reservation coupon. So mark your calendar and watch for details next time. Linda

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

Directions: North of Tampa - south of Ocala!!.

Vinoy History Tour & Luncheon

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.

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

Historic Veterans Day Weekend in Ft. Myers

Important Info

WHEN: Sat-Sun November 9-10, 2013
WHERE: Ft. Myers, FL
COST: Hotel \$75/night
CALL:
TIME:
RESERVE BY: October 23rd

Details: Nancy Merada has almost all the details worked out for our November weekend in Ft. Myers. She negotiated a great rate of \$75 per night at the Holiday Inn near the historic district. We will be checking into the hotel on Saturday afternoon and then there will be dinner nearby and, of course, partying at the hotel after! Sunday, after breakfast, we will tour the historic winter homes of Henry Ford & Thomas Edison. Nancy & I realized that the following Monday is Veterans Day so she called the hotel and they will honor that great rate should you want to stay an extra day or arrive early on Friday to explore this area of our great state. So look for details in our next issue & make your reservations before the deadline as the room rate increases up to \$50/night.

Fun Road Rally
Beginning in
Clearwater
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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