



Tampa Bay Star

December 2018/January 2019



Mote Marine Tour
See Pages 6 & 7

Coming Events

January 19, 2019
American Victory Ship Tour
Tampa, FL

February 17, 2019
Imagine Museum
St. Petersburg, FL

March 10, 2019
Tampa Bay Downs Brunch
Tampa, FL

See details for these events
on pages 4, 5, and 10

Holiday Brunch
See Pages 8 & 9

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.

Jan 7 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars
8302 US Hwy 19 N
Pinellas Park, FL

Jan 19 Saturday
American Victory Tour
Tampa, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

Feb 17 Sunday 12:15 PM
Imagine Museum
St. Petersburg, FL
See details in THIS issue

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

Mar 10 Sunday 11:00 AM
Tampa Bay Downs Brunch
Tampa, FL
See details in THIS issue

Apr 1 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

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

Jun 3 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

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you have a fabulous 2019.

The last event of 2018 was a huge success. Our Holiday Brunch at the Safety Harbor Spa was attended by 66 people. As usual, the food was amazing and such a great variety to choose from. Our gift exchange was a lot of fun and our members were very generous giving the children from the Hope Children's Home a lot of gifts. Please mark your calendar for next year as the Brunch is again being held at the Spa; the date is December 1st and we do have a limit of 80 people.

Our Club has some exciting events planned for 2019. On January 19th we are going to tour the American Victory Ship in Tampa followed by a late lunch at the Columbia Café on the River Walk. On February 17th we are going to the Imagine Museum in St. Petersburg. It is fascinating – all beautiful glass artwork from around the world, followed by a late lunch at Fresco's Waterfront Bistro. This event has a maximum of 30 people for the museum. On March 10th we will again be going to the Tampa Bay Downs for their brunch and an afternoon of horse racing. It is always well attended and again we have a maximum of 50 people.

Please come to our monthly Club meetings (the first Monday of each month, 6:30PM at Crown Mercedes, 8302 US Hwy 19 N, Pinellas Park). We have a short business meeting followed by dinner at BJ's Restaurant. It is a great time to socialize and meet our members. We welcome lots of new ideas for events so come and bring your thoughts.

May 2019 bring you everything you hope for...health, happiness, and success. See you at our events and meetings.

Lynn

Welcome New Members!

AJulie Bills • Clearwater Beach
Joseph Fishel • Ocala
Sara Gallet • St Petersburg
Mark Kashmanian • Tarpon Springs
Frank Malowany • Saint Petersburg
Bill Prang • St. Petersburg

Renewed Members

Jim Dean • Sebring
Robert Dostal • Port Saint Locie
David Hutchinson • Safety Harbor
Donald Jahns • Sun City Center
Edward Jarotz • Seminole
Sandy Lenhart • Sarasota
Attila Letai • Panema City
Tracey Marlowe • Tampa
Ron Martin • Tampa
Lynda Miller • Plant City
Jon Mitchell • Bradenton
Curtis Neuman • Ocala
Paul Nguyen • Venice
Deborah Pinto • St.Petersburg
Jeffrey Radwanski • Apollo Beach
Scott Suits • Palm Harbor
B Weeks • Tampa
Horst Walter • Putnam Valley
Gary Warner • Naples
Gerald Weber • N. Venice
Stanley Wiecko • Sarasota

Above are the new and renewed members from October 29, 2018 through December 28, 2018. We look forward to meeting the new members and hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor



Find us on
Facebook

Did you misplace your newsletter?

Do you know that Dan puts a copy of each issue of our local on the Tampa Bay Section website? Here is the address of our site:

<https://tampabay.mbca.org/>

Once you are on our site click Newsletter at the top and you will see the PDF format for all of our current and previous issues.

American Victory Ship & Columbia Café Lunch

Details: On Saturday, January 19th the club will tour The American Victory Ship in the Tampa Channelside District. We will begin our tour at 12 Noon. The American Victory Ship is one of only 4 fully-operational WWII ships in the country: The American Victory Ship is a true American icon and is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. We will tour most of the ship including cavernous three-level cargo holds, radio and gyro rooms, hospital, galley, weaponry, steering stations, flying bridge, signaling equipment, wheelhouse, mess halls, crew cabins, lifeboats, the Captain's quarters, cargo equipment and the engine. Enjoy rare artifacts, exciting exhibits, uniforms, medals, documents and photographs. Please note that unfortunately the ship is not handicap friendly.

Following the tour we will have a late lunch at the Columbia Café which is nearby. Lunch is off the menu.

There will be limited parking at the Ship and paid parking in the nearby lots. The Aquarium lot is a good option.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location.

Important Info

WHEN: Saturday, January 19, 2019

WHERE: **American Victory Ship Museum**
705 Channelside Drive • Tampa, FL 33602
813.228.8766

Columbia Café
801 Old Water St #1905 • Tampa, FL 33602

COST: \$5.00/person for the museum entrance

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson •
Home: 727-726-6711 • dhutch@verizon.net
Cell phone: 727-420-0424

TIME: Noon - 3:30 PM Lunch is at 2:30 PM

RESERVE BY: **January 12th**

Steps and touring the ship not your thing, feel free to join us at 2:30 PM at the Columbia Cafe for lunch. Call or email Dave & Lynn so we have an accurate head count



American Victory Ship & Columbia Café Lunch January 19, 2019

Name(s) _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Mail by January 12, 2019 to:

Email _____

Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Address _____

_____ at \$5/per person _____ Enclosed I will stay for lunch Y N

Imagine Museum Tour & Lunch



Details: Join us Sunday, February 17th at Imagine Museum where you will see over 500 pieces of American studio glass.

Imagine Museum is a new museum in St. Petersburg, Florida dedicated to Contemporary American Studio Glass. Currently, the museum is home to more than 500 pieces of American Studio Glass and represents over 55 artists over 55 years who were and are integral to the development of this medium as a fine art form.

There is street parking along Central Avenue or you can park in a large free lot behind the museum. The Museum opens at noon. We are starting our tour with a docent at 12:30 so plan on arriving by 12:15. We are limited to a maximum of 30 people.

Following the tour we will go to a late lunch at Fresco's Waterfront Bistro, 300 2nd Ave., NE, St. Petersburg (727) 894-4429). The parking is wherever you can find it. We recommend leaving some cars at the Museum and carpool from there to the restaurant.

Directions: The museum is on Central Ave in downtown St. Petersburg in the area where we have been to several other museums and events. Put the address in your GPS for the best directions from your home. Call Frank's cell: 610-322-9111 if you are running late or lost.

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, February 17, 2019

WHERE: **Imagine Museum - Contemporary Glass**
1901 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg FL
Lunch: **Fresco's Waterfront Bistro**
300 2nd Ave., NE, St. Petersburg
at 3:00 PM

COST: \$10.00/person for Museum entrance

CALL: Deborah and Frank Pinto
Frank's cell: 610-322-9111
frank@foamydog.com

TIME: 12:15pm meet, 12:30 for tour
3:00 PM for Lunch after

RESERVE BY: **February 10th**

We are Limited to 30 for the Tour

Imagine Museum Tour & Lunch February 17, 2019

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ coming @ \$10/person _____ Enclosed I will stay for Lunch Y N

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by February 10, 2019 to:
Deborah and Frank Pinto
7432 Sunshine Skyway Lane
#702
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Our Day at Mote Marine

Long Boat Key, FL
November 18, 2018
By Pat Watson

On Sunday, November 18th, thirty-four members of the Tampa Bay Section took advantage of the perfect weather to take a drive to Mote Marine Aquarium on City Island in Sarasota. It is always encouraging to see a good turn out for an event, especially with members coming from many different Florida locations. The day was fabulous, in the low 70's with a cool breeze blowing off the glistening gulf. The aquarium was relatively quiet on an early Sunday morning, so our group was able to leisurely wander through the facility together. Mote Marine has two buildings. The aquarium is home to different species of fish and marine life. The mammal center houses animals that call the seas, rivers, and watersheds their home. The group began at the aquarium where we started with freshwater Florida, including crawfish and a moray eel. The moray eel looked bright green, even though it is really brown. It took some of us awhile to find him in the tank. It was even more difficult with the rockfish, which are masters of camouflage. We continued on to view colorful creatures that inhabit the coral reefs and grass flats, including seahorses, jellyfish, sharks and (YUM) lots of big grouper. Along the way, docents were available to answer questions about what we were viewing and point out things we might have missed. We later went to the mammal center across the street, where we viewed turtles, manatees, crocodiles, and river otters. From observations of the group it appeared that the river otters stole the show with their playful antics. The shark tank was a close second favorite, and the petting tanks third. Some of our group was brave enough to pet the baby sharks and stingrays. I managed to lose the group when they went into the "Oh Baby" exhibit, and took some extra time watching the otters play. Mote Marine is actually quite large with lots to see and places to lose a group of 30 plus! So while there isn't enough room in the newsletter to print everything we saw on Sunday, we encourage anyone who missed the event to visit Mote Marine Aquarium.

Right: Greg Watson who volunteers at Mote Marine and with his wife, Pat, planned this event



Lunch was at the Chart House on Longboat Key. The restaurant did a great job of setting up for our group including printing a welcome message on the menus. Tables were set up along the window to provide a fabulous view of the intercoastal. After looking at all the fish, some of us (me) did not have an appetite for fish, so shrimp, chicken, or beef was our choice (we didn't see any at Mote Marine). There were many other options to pick from. The service and food were exceptional!

The best part of the event, of course, is meeting new members and seeing old friends. We hope to see everyone at the next event, and encourage members to join our monthly meetings to help plan future events.



Above: David & Jane Park, Nancy Pease & John Thomas, standing Pat & Greg Watson and Ric and Sue Garland

Left: Patty & Case Whitemore

Photos at this event taken by Dave Hutchinson





Above: Mary Ellen & Ron Ames and Carolyn & George Orndorff. The Orndorffs said good by to us at this event as they moved to New Mexico in November.



Right: Nancy Pease & John Thomas admire one of the aquariums
Below: Cynthia and Jerry Weber



Above: Catherine & Bob Martino, Lynn Hutchinson, and Linda & Paul Cooper



Left: Gwen & Bert Leman (Cathy's parents) and Steve & Cathy Aki



Holiday Brunch at Safety Harbor Spa

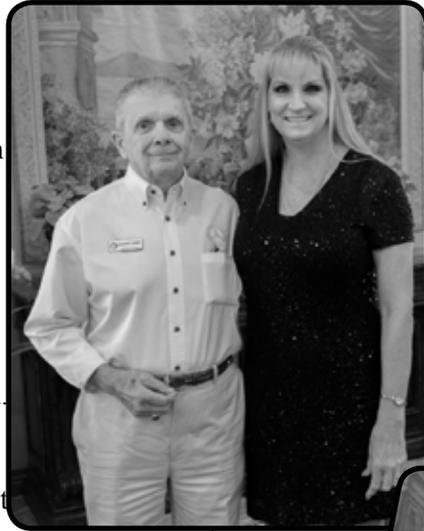
Safety Harbor, FL
December 2, 2018
By Lynn Hutchinson

On Sunday, December 2nd we held our annual Holiday Brunch at the Safety Harbor Spa, with 67 members and guests attending. A lucky person at each table won the centerpiece; as usual, the food was a big hit. The Spa puts on quite a large spread. This year the buffet was set up in the main area, right outside our banquet room. There was a huge assortment of salads and cold dishes. My favorite was the huge platter of jumbo shrimp as well as very large oysters on the half shell. For those liking breakfast, there was a big selection as well as an omelet station. I had been thinking of the lobster bisque since last year, and it did not disappoint. Now I can think about it all year...I can't wait for next year. My carved prime rib was delicious as was the mashed potatoes and other hot dishes, fried chicken, fish, pepper steak, and lots of veggies. Lastly, the dessert table was fabulous. Of course, I love chocolate and the flourless chocolate cake was wonderful. Dave loved the pecan pie. There was definitely something for everyone. Everyone loves the room with a nice view and we have already reserved it again for next year. It will be December 1, 2019.

We had a fun time at our Chinese Auction/Gift Exchange. There were lots of good gifts. A gift can be opened and "stolen" twice. We had a lot of laughs when Don Beach had his gift taken so many times. It seemed that every time he got a new gift, the next person "stole" it. He was a good sport about it all, and we wished we had kept track of how many times he came up and got a gift.

The Hope Children's Home received 37 unwrapped toys and \$70 in gift cards from members. The Club donated \$250 in gift cards. Scott Suits donated 2 of his prints to raffle off and collected \$180 which he also gave to the Hope Children's Home.

Dave and I want to thank the Club for selecting us as Couple of the Year. What a nice surprise. We received a lovely plaque as well as having our dues paid for next year.



Above: Members of the year Dave & Lynn Hutchinson

Left: Robert Lewis & his daughter, Cynthia Munde

Below: Mike Davis, Krissy Bacon & Lou Dughi



Above left: Frank & Deborah Pinto

Above right: Karl Grube and Barbara Little

Photos at this event taken by Dave Hutchinson



Right: Don Beach unwraps, & unwraps & unwraps!! We are not sure what you finally went home with!!



Above top: Cliff & Trish Brinkley and Rose Bennagott & Pat Anagnostis

Above: Rodger Baker & his friend GG, Jose & Joan Uranga

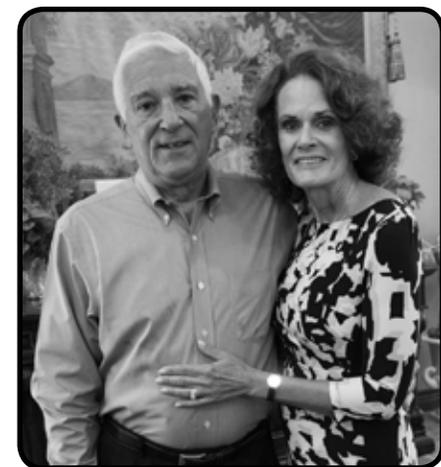
Right: Edgar Schulz sports his MBCA logo golf towels. Did he take them home? Or did Trish Brinkley - right??



Above: Jim Pfister - was he taking from or giving to Don??!!



Left: Dick & Kathy Browsers



Wine & spirits - who took it home.

Was it (clockwise from the top - Margaret Gregoriou, Marcus Leibrecht, Elaine Lee or Rodger Baker??

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch

Details: Thoroughbred racing is back for the winter season and we have March 10th 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 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 1st. 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 10:30AM promptly!! The entrance gate opens at 11:00 AM and 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 collared 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. Or put the above address in your GPS for specific directions from you home.

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday March 10, 2019

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 1st**. (or first 50 people)

Limited to 50 registrations (2 per membership).

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

Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Horse Racing & Brunch March 10, 2019

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by March 1, 2019 to:
Dave & Lynn Hutchinson
2104 Flamingo Place
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

1 or 2 @ \$30/adult _____ Enclosed



REMINDER – The Imagine Museum tour has a limit of 30 and the Tampa Bay Downs Brunch has a limit of 50

So if you want to be a part of either of these events....

REGISTER EARLY!!!

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 – 1983 Mercedes Benz 300 CD Turbo; 146,00 miles. All original with service records. Signal red color, beige interior. Excellent condition - \$11,500. For details call Karen, 727-201-9946

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. \$12,999 - Call Dave Hutchinson at 727-420-0592 or 727-726-6711.

FOR SALE – Baby your SLK 230 with this flannel lined all weather extreme silver/gray “Custom Cover”. Pristine! Only \$100. Call Krissy at 727-548-0313.

FOR SALE – 2004 E320 station wagon, blue/gray, rear facing third seat, cargo privacy cover, nav system, sun roof. Recently service at Crown. 122k miles. Call Paul & Linda Cooper @ 727-726-6837

FOR SALE – Mercedes 300E glass model on wood display, e-mail for photo. \$25. Call Anthony at (352)513-5058

Tampa Bay Star newsletter ad costs:

1/2 page	\$400.00
1/4 page	\$250.00
Business Card	\$150.00

The above rates listed are for an annual ad in ALL six issues for the year



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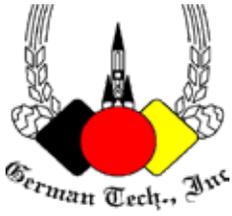
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Help your Section

Many of the MBCA sections have gone to sending their newsletters to their members via e-mail to avoid the high cost of printing and postage. Our section has enough members that we qualify to reduced postage by using bulk rate mailing and sorting. We are also lucky to have a printing company in Sarasota that is efficient and has the capability to sort and even deliver our printed newsletters to the local bulk mailing facility. The printing costs and postage expense have inched up every year. We have not raised our advertising rates and would like to reward our loyal advertisers by not raising them. This page usually only has one ad and the classified ads. So we have space for more advertisers. Do you have a local repair shop you love, supplier for parts or even an upholsterer, just to name a few, you used that you would like recommend to your fellow members? How about contacting them about placing an ad in our *Tampa Bay Star* newsletter.?

So take your copy of the newsletter to your favorite business and find out what size ad they are ready to place that will be seen by all 280 of your fellow members. As a reward for your efforts, the Section will pay your next membership renewal for 1 year.

Give them my name, phone number and/or e-mail address if they have further questions. We can accept ads camera ready in any digital format or they can mail me a hard copy (not folded) to scan. My contact information is: Linda Cooper, 121 Woodland Court, Safety Harbor, FL 34695 • Cell: 727-498-6800 • LindaBCooper@verizon.net



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