



Tampa Bay Star

July/August 2021

All of us at the
Florida Museum &
Butterfly Rainforest
See Page 6



Coming Events

July 23, 2021
Caravan to Arcadia & Lunch
Arcadia, FL

August 13, 2021
Bishop Museum & Lunch
Bradenton, FL

December 5, 2021
Holiday Brunch
Safety Harbor Spa
Safety Harbor, FL



See pics from
Amelia Island
Concour
On Pages 7 & 8

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.

Jul 5 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting
Via Zoom

Jul 23 Friday 10:30 AM
Shopping in Arcadia & Lunch
Arcadia, FL
See details in THIS issue

Aug 2 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting
Via Zoom

Aug 13 Friday 10:30 AM
Bishop Museum & Lunch
Bradenton, FL
See details in THIS issue

We will make a decision on whether or not to continue Zoom meetings as the year progresses. Contact our

secretary, Pat Watson if you would like the link to our Zoom meetings.

Sep 13 Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner
Crown Eurocars

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

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

Dec 5 Sunday 11:00 AM
Holiday Bruch at Safety Harbor Spa
Safety Harbor, FL

Dec 6 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.

Mercedes-Benz
Roadside Assistance
Call 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES
24 hours a day.

President's Message

The Tampa Bay Section is back in action with a healthy event schedule. Our Zoom calls have actually been quite successful with some great participation from some members that we didn't see when we were meeting at the dealership. With that said, we do hope to be back to in-person meetings in September. More information will be forthcoming.

On May 22nd fourteen Club members and Guests traveled to Gator Country, Gainesville to visit the Butterfly Rainforest on the University of Florida campus. The butterflies were quite active. I think that everyone that attended had a great time. I know that I really enjoyed photographing these beautiful species. Some of us also visited the Museum of Natural History. We had lunch following our event at Harry's Restaurant. What a great restaurant. A few of us went up a day early and took in the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings house in Micanopy. Thanks Dan Cabrera for putting this together.

On June 18th the Club will be touring the Sarasota Art Museum. Connie Dolin has put together a nice event. We had planned to do this Museum last year, but it was shut down during the pandemic. It is the first time that the club will have visited this museum followed by lunch at Connors.

Another new event will be a caravan to Arcadia on July 23rd to visit the antique shops in this quaint community. Thanks to member Steven Rae for suggesting and heading up this event. I am looking forward to it. And of course lunch will follow at a local restaurant..

Steven also offered to chair an event at the Bishop's Museum in Bradenton on August 13th. We haven't been there in a while. The Museum always offers great sights.

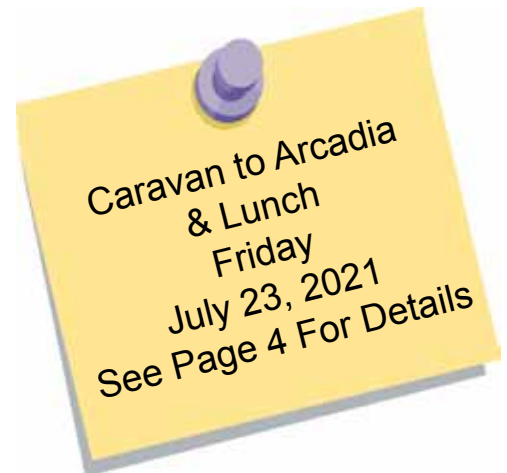
Len & Ben Berman attended the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. Ben's interesting review of the event is included in this newsletter.

Finally, we will conduct our annual election in September. If you would like to run for an office please let us know.

Dave

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
Lynn & Dave Hutchinson	727-420-0424



TO ORDER YOUR TAMPA BAY MBCA SHIRTS

If you have been to the last few events or meetings then you noticed that we are changing the Tampa Bay MBCA club shirts from the jade green to red. The mens shirt can now have a pocket or no pocket. There is a ladies shirt with a V-neck and collar or you can get the polo type shirt like the mens. (Or if you want ladies, you can purchase your own red shirt and get the logo embroidered on it.)

The shirts are \$34.00 each including the logo. If you provide the shirt, the embroidery charge is \$10.00/shirt. To order these shirts call or email Linda Cooper at 727-798-6800 or LindaBCooper@verizon.net. Payment can be cash, check (made out to Linda Cooper) or credit card.

Antiquing in Arcadia & Lunch



Important Info

WHEN: Friday, July 23, 2021

WHERE: **Antiquing in Arcadia**
Arcadia, FL

Mary Margaret's Tea Room
10 S Polk Ave, Arcadia FL

CALL: Steven Rae • smrae2@verizon.net or
call 317-954-2104

TIME: 9:45 AM - Meet for caravan
12:30 for lunch

RESERVE BY: July 18th

Planning to attend? RSVP to: Steven Rae. Please note how many are joining for lunch.

Details: Join us for a caravan trek to historic Arcadia, FL where antique shops and boutiques abound and good food awaits. We will gather at the WalMart parking lot on the SE corner of SR70 and I-75 in Bradenton at 9:45AM on Friday, July 23rd to travel together to Arcadia. We will then have the opportunity to walk downtown and shop before gathering for a superior and tasty lunch. Afterward, feel free to continue shopping and return home at your leisure..

Directions: Put this address – WalMart parking lot, 5810 Ranch Lake Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34202 – into your GPS for the best directions from your house.

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 News-letter at the top and you will see the PDF format for all of our current and previous issues.



Bishop Museum/Lunch



Details: Join us on Friday, Aug 13th at the Bishop Science and Nature Museum in down-town Bradenton for a 2 hour docent-guided tour, which will include the newly renovated Manatee Aquarium as well as the digitally-enhanced Planetarium for an incredible show. Following the tour, we will take a short drive across the Manatee River to lunch at the Riverhouse Restaurant in Palmetto. When you send your registration please indicate if you will be staying for lunch.

Directions: Put the museum address into your GPS for the best directions from your house. Parking: There is 3-hour free parking in front of the museum or there is a free parking garage across the street from the Museum.

Important Info

WHEN: Friday August 13, 2021
WHERE: **Bishop Museum** – at the front entrance
201 10th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205
<https://bishopsience.org>
Riverhouse Seafood Restaurant
995 Riverside Dr, Palmetto, FL 34221
COST: \$15.00/person
CALL: Call Steve at (317) 954-2104
TIME: 9:45 AM for museum tour; Noon for lunch



Bishop Museum/Lunch Friday, August 13, 2021

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

____ number coming \$15.00 per person I will stay for lunch Y N

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by August 6, 2021 to:
Steven Rae
12564 30th St Circle East,
Parrish, FL 34219

Florida Natural Museum & Butterfly Garden

Gainesville, FL
May 22, 2021
By Dan Cabrera

What a wonderful world, walking through what replicates a tropical rainforest or a Disney World creation of an enchanted forest, was experienced by twelve of our members. Several of our members went through the gardens a second time because it was impossible to take in all the wonders of the butterflies as they flew around the nectars of the many flowers. On occasion butterflies would choose to hitch a ride on a visitor. In addition to the garden itself, there were many displays containing information about butterflies from around the world.

The skeleton of a Mastodon greeted you as you walked into the Museum and to the other exhibits that gave us a look into the animals that occupied Florida long before us. The Museum's limited time exhibit was "Survival of the Slowest." This exhibit contained a variety of snakes and turtles, as well as a 3-toed sloth. The sloth was the star of the show. However, as many who wear that crown, the sloth did not want to participate when the handler tried to take it out for the visitors to get a closer look.

The University of Florida can be proud of their work maintaining this facility. I recommend to all to make time to visit. I know my wife and I will be going back.

Afterwards we all met for lunch at Harry's Seafood Bar and Grill. Their food was delicious and their service was exceptional. As we consumed our food (and adult beverages), we used the time to socialize with the members in attendance and learn more about each other.

We always say to all our members, you are missing great fun and great friends by not participating in our events.



Photos taken by Dave Hutchinson



Above: 1932 Cadillac 355-B

Right: 1960 Alfa Romeo

Right: 1940 Cadillac 60 Special



Amelia Island

Amelia Island, FL
May 23, 2021
By Ben Berman

The post-pandemic rebirth of the car collecting hobby in Florida began on May 23 with the 28th annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance at its usual location, the exclusive Ritz Carlton Hotel in Fernandina Beach. Although delayed from its usual early-March timing, and somewhat smaller than usual, the Concours hosted a healthy crowd of car enthusiasts in sunny but not oppressively warm weather.

The usual Concours-related activities took place during the days preceding the event itself, although on a somewhat diminished scale. Of the three upscale auction houses that schedule sales only two, RM Sotheby and Bonham's, were present this year. Both, however, ushered high quality vehicles across the block. Bonham's featured a large number of rare offerings from the early decades of the last century, some well preserved rather than restored, as well as Rolls Royce and Bentley models from the 1950's and a lone Jaguar F-Type Project 7 coupe, a low production high performance version of its current sports car offering.

RM, as usual, offered a blend of classics from the 1920's and 1930's as well as later model Ferraris and one Lamborghini. At the auction preview on the lawn behind the Ritz a trio of Cadillac Eldorados – a 1956, 1957, and a 1958, all consigned from the same collection – attracted a good bit of attention.

As is customary, three manufacturers offered test drives of their current products in the days leading up to the Concours. This year Lexus, Rolls Royce, and Porsche had the opportunity to display their new models, the most interesting being the redesigned and much-improved Rolls Royce Ghost sedan. Hagerty Insurance, which markets to the collector car market, offered four cars for ride and drive experiences: a 1967 Pontiac GTO, a 1969 Camaro, a 1960 Plymouth Fury convertible, and a Land Rover from the 1960's.

Surprising, and disappointing, was Mercedes Benz's absence from most aspects of this year's Concours activities. The spots in the forecourt of the Ritz usually occupied by several new Mercedes and Maybach models were filled instead by Ferraris, including a red and a black example of their recently introduced GT model, the Roma. And at the Cars & Coffee display the day before the Concours the area normally containing a wide variety of Mercedes from various eras was instead devoted to a hodge-podge of other, more mundane vehicles. That one section displayed more Porsche 928s, a rarely seen and not widely appreciated model from the 1980's, than the total number of Mercedes sprinkled around the cars & Coffee event.

Another jarring note was the apparent hostility displayed by the Ritz itself toward those attending Concours-related events. Normally car enthusiasts flood the hotel's lobby, bar and restau-



Two Cadillacs

Left: A 1912

Below: 1930 Cadillac V16 All Weather Phaeton

On the cover: Another V16 but this time a roadster



Amelia Island photos taken by Ben Berman

rants; this year guards were posted at every entrance to the Ritz to prevent all except guests registered at the hotel from entering. The throngs who wanted to browse through the offerings of the vendors associated with the Concours or attend the seminars which were part of the annual ritual, were directed to a single side entrance and barred from using all but one set of rest rooms.

Despite this year's anomalies, the 2021 Amelia Island Concours has to be rated an unqualified success. After 14 months in which most car related activities were cancelled, and the rest confined to computer screens, it heralded a welcome return to the real world.



Left: 1929 Bentley

Below: 1975 Ferrari 275





Above: 1956 Cadillac

Below: 1952 Ferrari



Above: 2021 Ferrari Roma

Below: 1971 Porsche 914



Welcome New Members!

Stephen Bien • Odessa, FL
Joshua Boulware • Seminole, FL
Doug & Jane Brane • LARGO, FL
Andrey Palyukh • Englewood, FL
Robin Resnik • Palm Harbor, FL
Mark Goncharenko • Sarasota, FL
Johannes Verdaasdonk • Tarpon springs, FL
Gianinna Sarmiento • Clearwater, FL
Gregory Goodwin • Palm Harbor, FL
Scott Papes • Palm Harbor, FL
Peter Stickney • Dunnellon, FL

Above are the new members from
May 1, 2021 through June 11, 2021.
We look forward to meeting the new
members at many of our events. –
Editor

Renewed Members

Archie Smith • Dade City
Pat Watson • Bradenton
Michael Hanson • New Port Richey
J Hobson • Sarasota
Richard Browers • Safety Harbor
Roger Jester • Tarpon Springs
Rosmarie Bannagott • St Petersburg
Joseph Colwell • Palm Harbor
William Sgro • Lakewood Ranch
ROARK HAYES • Royal Oak
Gale Tschuor • Wesley Chapel
Frank Ness • Nokomis
Edmund Staninas • Inverness
Marcia Schulz • Oldsmar
Richard Harris • Sarasota
JOSE URANGA • UNIVERSITY PARK
Jim Clasen • Lutz
Katharine Whittington • Belleair Beach
Robert Yaeger • Sarasota

Above are the renewed members from
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hope to keep seeing our renewed mem-
bers at many of our events. – Editor