



# Tampa Bay Star

May/June 2021



All of us before  
the Rally  
See Page 6

Right Margaret &  
Chris Gregoriou and  
below Cliff relax  
before lunch  
See Page 5

### Coming Events

May 22, 2021  
Florida Museum &  
Butterfly Garden  
Gainesville, FL

June 18, 2021  
Art Museum & Lunch  
Sarasota, FL

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



# Important Dates

## Officers

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727-726-6711 C 727-420-0592  
dhutch@verizon.net

**Vice President**  
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941-896-6881 C 941-720-8322  
c.dolin@verizon.net

**Secretary** Pat Watson  
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**Treasurer** Paul J. Cooper  
727-726-6837 C 727-644-6837  
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

**Past President**  
Lynn Hutchinson  
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dhutch@verizon.net

**Newsletter Editor**  
Linda B. Cooper  
727-726-6837 C 727-798-6800  
LindaBCooper@verizon.net

## Chairpersons

**Membership**  
Paul J. Cooper  
727-726-6837 C 727-644-6837  
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

**Activities** Lynn Hutchinson

**Photography**  
Dave Hutchinson

**Historian** Lynn Hutchinson

**Technical**

**Legal Advisor**

**Webmaster**  
Dan Cabrera  
dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

**SE Regional Director**  
Hank Webb  
904-375-8751  
hankwebb58@bellsouth.net

**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.

**May 22 Saturday 10:30 AM**  
**FL Museum & Butterflies**  
Gainesville, FL  
**See details in THIS issue**

**Jun 7 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting  
Via Zoom

**Jun 18 Friday 10:30 AM**  
**Sarasota Art Museum & Lunch**  
Sarasota, FL  
**See SOME details in THIS issue**

**Jul 5 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting  
Via Zoom

**Aug 2 Monday 6:30PM**  
Business Meeting  
Via Zoom

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 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

Well, our club is finally getting active again. We continue to do our monthly business meetings on Zoom on the first Monday of the month and have had a pretty fair response including some folks that haven't participated in the past. We are considering going back to in person meetings and will advise as soon as we know more. Most of the members that have attended our events have now had their Covid vaccinations.

Recently we did a meetup event at the Tarpon Turtle where our members socialized before our lunch (Of course, all of our events include food!). It was chilly for sure with temperatures in the 50s. We ate outside. Scott Suits and Betty Hendricks had the best table with huge twin outside heaters!!!! The Tarpon Turtle Food was excellent. We had a big turnout with almost 40 members and guests attending.

In April Jose Uranga headed up a Rally through northern Manatee County and southern Pinellas County. Everyone was pleased with the route. I liked that Jose spaced out the 80 clues which took a lot of the stress off of the navigators. As a matter of fact Lynn and I completed without a fight! Winners were Dan and Debbie Cabrera (1st), Dennis and Bobbie Dwyer (2nd) and Paul and Linda Cooper (3rd).

On May 22 we are doing a museum event in Gainesville. Members will choose whether they want to do one of two museums, one of which is the Butterfly Garden at the University. And, of course we will get together for lunch afterward. Please see Dan Cabrera's information in this newsletter.

Also, please mark your calendar for a visit to the Sarasota Art Museum on Friday, June 18th.

I hope all of you are well and that our club is on the way back to normality. We are always looking for ideas for our monthly events. If you have any suggestions, please let us know with either an e-mail to me ([dhutch@verizon.net](mailto:dhutch@verizon.net)) or a phone call (727-420-0592).

Sincerely,

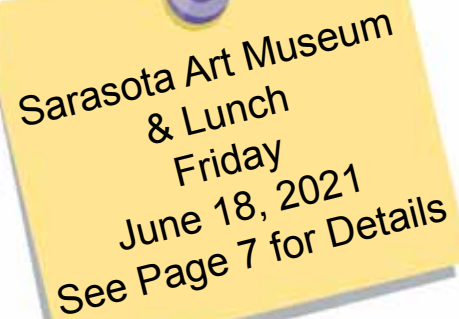
*Dave*

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



Florida Museum & Butterfly Garden & Lunch  
Saturday  
May 22, 2021  
See Page 4 For Details



Sarasota Art Museum & Lunch  
Friday  
June 18, 2021  
See Page 7 for Details

## 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](mailto:LindaBCooper@verizon.net). Payment can be cash, check or credit card.



# Florida Natural History Museum & Butterfly Garden



## Important Info

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 22, 2021

**WHERE:** **FL Natural History Museum & Butterflies**  
3215 Hull Road — Powell Hall  
UF Cultural Plaza • Gainesville, FL  
352-846-2000  
<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu>

**HOTEL:** Hampton Inn Gainesville  
4225 SW 40th Blvd. • Gainesville, Florida  
352-371-4171

**COST:** Museum permanent exhibits are free.  
Butterfly Rain forest is \$12 for seniors

**CALL:** Dan Cabrera • 813-480-3484  
[cabrerad1313@hotmail.com](mailto:cabrerad1313@hotmail.com)

**TIME:** 10:30 AM

**RESERVE BY:** **May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Details:** Saturday at 10:30am will be the event at the Florida Museum. You will purchase your own tickets for entrance. The Natural History museum has one price (w/senior discount). The Butterfly Garden also has one ticket price (w/senior discount). They also offer a combination ticket at a lower rate. We are still researching places for lunch after. Please call or email Dan so we have a general idea of how many to expect.

**Directions:** We have no information on parking as for over a month they have not returned any phone calls or email messages. Location is 2.7 miles off of I-75 exit number 382. There is hotel information above is you would like to come on Friday and/or stay after on Saturday. We plan to have a mid afternoon meal after our museum and butterfly garden tour. We will advise you of the location for lunch the day of the event.



Right: Ron & Michelle Horwitz  
Left: Neal & Michele Dion



# Lunch at Tarpon Turtle

Tarpon Springs, FL  
March 21, 2021  
By Linda Cooper

Our first event for 2021 was on Sunday, March 21st at the Tarpon Turtle Grill in Tarpon Springs. Forty one members and guests began gathering in the parking lot just after 10 AM. We visited and introduced ourselves to new members. Promptly at 11 AM the restaurant opened and we settled in our seats on the patio overlooking Tarpon Lake. The weather was brisk so some enjoyed many several of the heaters provided. We had a terrific meal and will return but possibly on a little bit warmer day



Above: Rose Bennacott

Right: Cliff Brinkley & Lynn Coleman



Above: Catherine & Bob Martino

Right: Diane & Chuck Cooper



Above: John & Jan Adamick

Right:

Far right: Eleanor Vassel



# Spring Gimmick Rally

Sarasota & St. Petersburg, FL  
 April 25, 2021  
 By Jose Uranga

Our Spring Gimmick Rally attracted eleven cars and 26 folks on April 25, 2021. We gathered at the SR 64 Crackerbarrel in Bradenton on a sunny Sunday morning and 82 directions/questions and 2 hours later, folks began to arrive at the rally end point, the Sea Hags seafood restaurant in St. Pete beach. The food was great.

The first place finishers were Debbie/Dan Cabrera with only 5 missed answers; second place went to Linda/ Paul Cooper with 7 missed answers and third place was won by the Dennis Dwyers with only 8 misses. Nice bottles of cabernet sauvignon wine were awarded to the top 3 finishers.



Above: Cathi & Steve Aki  
 Right: Debbie & Dan Cabrera  
 Below: Carmine & Mary Elizabeth Pluchino



Above: Chuck & Diane Coopert  
 Below: Gary & Connie Dolin, Pat & Greg Watson and Dan & Debbie Cabrera



Photos taken by Dave Hutchinson





# Sarasota Art Museum/Lunch



**Details:** On Friday, June 18, 2021, we will be visiting the new Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College which opened in December 2019 in the former home of Sarasota High School. Designed as a kunsthalle- a non-collecting art institution showing only temporary exhibits, the museum provides a cross-section of modern and contemporary art.

Built in 1926, the former Sarasota High School was designed in the Collegiate-Gothic style by architect M. Leo Elliott. In 1984 the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Although the school closed its door in 1996, members of the community were inspired to find its new purpose.

## Important Info

- WHEN:** Friday June 18, 2021
- WHERE:** **Sarasota Art Museum**  
1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota  
<https://www.sarasotaartmuseum.org/>
- Connor's Steak and Seafood**  
3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
- COST:** \$15.00 - FYI Active & Retired military FREE with ID card
- CALL:** Connie Dolin at 941-720-8322 or email: [C.dolin@verizon.net](mailto:C.dolin@verizon.net)
- TIME:** 11:30 AM for museum tour; 1:30 PM for lunch

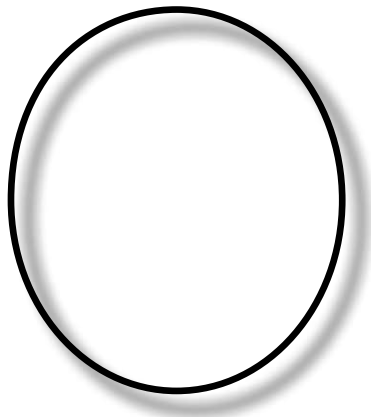
Free visitor parking on the south side of the building is limited.

Lunch will follow at Connor's Steak and Seafood.

**Directions:** The Sarasota Art Museum address is 1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. From the north, take I-75 exit #210, FL-780/W. Fruitville Rd. Turn left onto Rt 301/N. Washington Blvd which becomes S. Tamiami Trail.

From the museum, continue south on S. Tamiami Trail to Westfield Siesta Key. Connor's Steak and Seafood is located in the northwest corner- 3501 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

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



# Welcome New Members!

Luis Annoni • Palm Harbor  
Charles Bennett • Brooksville  
Nathan Brown • Tampa  
Julie Campo • Tampa  
Tamara Carr • Ellenton  
Mike Carter • Bradenton  
Anita Darios • New Port Richey  
Robert Donaldson • St. Petersburg  
Jameakwha Epps • Tampa  
Feffe Fugleberg • Sarasota  
James Gillett • Clearwater  
James Lee • Palm Harbor  
Ron Manganiello • Sarasota  
Cindy McQuaid • St Petersburg  
Charles Miller • St. Petersburg  
Donna Milne • Clearwater  
Rachael Mueller • Bushnell  
Bengt Niebuhr • Sarasota  
Fredrica NixonStrusa • Redington Shores  
Andrew Olwert • Sarasota  
Gretchen Rimmer • Sarasota  
Sita Sarna • Sarasota  
Martin Shields • Englewood  
Julia Vasta • Palm Harbor  
Julie Weston • St Petersburg

Above are the new members from February 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. We look forward to meeting the new members at many of our events. – Editor

# Renewed Members

Norman Baillie • Lakewood Ranch  
David Barcza • Tierra Verde  
Eric Berg • Largo  
Jeff Berg • San Antonio  
Rhonda Bowers • Brooksville  
Joe Brenna • Indian Rocks Beach  
Laura Bretthaurer • Bradenton  
Darcy Byrnes • Sarasota  
Frank Cannoe • Bradenton  
David Cawley • Tampa  
Richard Clarke, Sr. • Tampa  
Bettrice Conner-Mason • Saint Petersburg  
Michael Cooper • Safety Harbor  
Paul Cooper • Safety Harbor  
Joseph Fishel • Ocala  
Larry French • Belleair  
Frank Frysiek • Tarpon Springs  
Gary Gould • Tampa  
Ken Hackett • Ft Myers  
Gene Heil • Treasure Island

Michele Horwitz • Palm Harbor  
Michael Julian • Treasure Island  
Nicholas Marsala • Sarasota  
George Mason • Largo  
Barbara McCue • St Petersburg  
Michael McElmurry • Parrish  
James Moslener • Apollo Beach  
Charles Mudd • Tampa  
Kenneth Olsen • Temple Terrace  
Mark Petche • LUTZ  
Joseph Polizzotti • Ocala  
Victoria Ross • Tampa  
Gary Saulson • Chautauqua  
Richard Schmitz • Woodbury  
Bill Schmus • Lakewood Ranch  
Larry Smith • Palm Harbor  
Jonathan Sones • Clearwater  
Watson Tanner • Dunnellon  
Chuck Wolfe • Anna Maria  
Dennis Zawacki • Bradenton

Above are the renewed members from February 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. We hope to keep seeing our renewed members at many of our events. – Editor



## 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.