



Tampa Bay Star

April/May 2012



At the Polo Match
See pages 8 & 9



At River Ranch
See pages 5 & 6



Coming Events

April 22, 2012
Tampa Bay Downs
Tampa, FL

May 20, 2012
Weeki Wachi State Park
Spring Hill, FL
The Inn on the Gulf
Hudson Beach, FL

June 24, 2012
Sarasota Classic Car Museum
Sarasota, FL

July 22, 2012
Tampa Bay History Center
Tampa, FL

September 28 - Oct 3, 2012
StarFest 2012
Phoenix, AZ

Officers

President Dave Hutchinson
727-726-6711
Dhutch@verizon.net

Vice President
Paul J. Cooper
727-726-6837
PaulJCooper@verizon.net

Secretary Lynn Hutchinson
727-726-6711
Dhutch@verizon.net

Treasurer Pat Tornblom
727-856-5584
ptornblom@tampabay.rr.com

Past President
Paul J. Cooper

Newsletter Editor
Linda B. Cooper
727-726-6837
LindaBCooper@verizon.net

Chairpersons

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

Activities Lynn Hutchinson

Photography
Dave Hutchinson

Historian Lynn Hutchinson

Technical

Legal Advisor
Dick Wolverton

Webmaster
Dan Cabrera
dcabrera2@tampabay.rr.com

SE Regional Director
Scott Suits
727-460-5739
Suits@ij.net

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.

Apr 22 Sunday 10:30AM-4PM

Tampa Bay Downs
Racing & Brunch
Tampa, FL

May 7 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

May 20 Sunday 1PM-?PM

Weeki Wachi State Park
Spring Hill, FL
Dinner at The Inn on the Gulf
Hudson Beach, FL

See details in THIS issue

Jun 4 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Jun 24 Sunday 2PM-6PM

Sarasota Classic Car Museum
Sarasota, FL
Dinner at Barnicle Bills
Sarasota, FL

See details in THIS issue

Jul 9 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Jul 22 Sunday 2PM-6PM

Tampa Bay History Center
Tampa, FL
Dinner at Columbia Cafe
Tampa, FL

See details in THIS issue

Aug 6 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Sep 10 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Oct 1 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & dinner
Crown Eurocars

Dec 9 Sunday

Holiday Brunch
Countryside Country Club

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.

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

President's Message

Spring is Here!

First, I must share some sad news. Longtime member, Chris Tornblom passed away from a sudden illness at the end of March. Chris was always a passionate contributor to the club as well as being a good friend. We will miss him. Our condolences go to Pat and his family.

On a happier note, almost 60 members attended our social at the Lakewood Ranch Polo Grounds on March 25th. We were pleased to see many new members attend and enjoy a spectacular day. This year we erected 3 tents which allowed almost everyone to relax in the shade. This was our third year for this event. I would like your feedback on this event regarding doing it again in 2013. Please send your candid thoughts to me at dhutch@verizon.net. As I have mentioned before, the board is always interested in any new ideas that you might like to offer for future socials. We are interested in fresh events from all of the areas where our Section's membership resides.

Coming up this month, we will be doing our third horsey event in the past 3 months at Tampa Bay Downs. This is another popular event. On May 20th we will be doing a new event. The club social will be at Weeki Wachee with dinner afterwards. This should be fun. Lynn and I have lived in the Tampa Bay area for 34 years, but this will be our first time to see the mermaids at Weeki Wachee. So, if you want to do something new this might just be the social for you.

In June we will be going to the Cars and Music Museum in Sarasota with dinner following at Barnacle Bill's Restaurant. This is a very interesting museum. I particularly remember seeing one of the few remaining Tucker automobiles on our last visit.

As an afterthought, we have had several people making checks out to the person that they are mailing the money to for an event. Please do not write any checks for our events to any person who is listed as the chairman. All checks must be written to Tampa Bay Section MBCA. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

I hope that everyone is enjoying a great Spring.

Dave

Welcome New Members!

Frank Canoe • Apolo Beach
James Marrow • Wesley Chapel
Frederick Wight • Sarasota

In November we welcomed Don & Margaret "Splash" Eckerson as new members (Paul & I met them at the Crown Ocktoberfest). A few days ago we got a call from their friends, Frank & Michele Canoe, who wanted information on how they can become members. On April 3rd they joined our list. Now if every member would get a new member, think of how many more new MB owners we can share the fun with. Thanks Don & Splash for recommending a new member and we look forward to seeing all of you at our next event. – Editor



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



Plus Dinner at the Inn on the Gulf

Details: Weeki Wachi is Florida's only spring fed waterpark. We will take a ride down the pristine waterway of the Weeki Wachee River on our River Boat Cruise. Their experienced boat captains will give our us an educational experience about the river and the different types of natural wildlife that might be seen during the trip. The river boat cruise has limited seating capacity of 30 passenger and leaves every 45 minutes beginning at 10:15 AM.

Our plans are to meet at the entrance at 1PM. For the \$10/person we have access to the park, the mermaid show(s) and the river boat cruise. At the end of our afternoon at the park we will head to the Inn on the Gulf for dinner. The Inn On The Gulf of Hudson Beach, FL brings you one of the finest and freshest seafood dining experiences found in the Tampa Bay area. From our warm friendly hospitality to their famous fish & chips, from mouth watering aromas to breathtaking sunset views, it is as an excellent choice in seafood restaurants. If the whole afternoon does not fit your schedule, we anticipate we will be arriving at the restaurant about 4:30-5 PM. Just make sure to call and let us know you will be coming.



Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, May 20, 2012
WHERE: **Weeki Wachi State Park**
6131 Commercial Way • Spring Hill, FL 34606
Inn on the Gulf Restaurant
6330 Clark Street • Hudson Beach, Florida 34667
COST: \$10.00 / person for the Park - dinner off the menu
CALL: Paul & Linda Cooper • 727-726-6837
or via email PaulJCooper@verizon.net
TIME: 1PM - ? PM
RESERVE BY: May 14th

Directions: Usually I get very brief accurate directions from the web sites of our event locations. This is a quote from the Weeki Wachi web site: "Weeki Wachee Springs is located in Spring Hill, FL at the intersection of S.R. 50 and Hwy. 19. For best directions, use MapQuest." Considering this issue is already very late and most of us have a GPS in our cars, on our phones or have access to a computer. I am leaving the directions to you! Check out their web site:
<http://weekiwachee.com> – Editor

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

Weeki Wachi State Park & Dinner May 20, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$10.00/person – Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by May 14, 2012 to:
Paul & Linda Cooper
121 Woodland Court
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Sarasota Classic Car Museum & Dinner at Barnacle Bill's

Details: From their web site: The Sarasota Classic Car Museum is recognized as the second oldest continuously operating antique car museum in the Nation! As you stroll through the museum, travel back in time and into the future of man's greatest invention, the automobile! Antique, exotic, European and one-of-a-kind classics are featured in our rotating exhibits throughout the museum, seven days a week.

Here you will view Circus Magnate, John and Mable Ringling's collection of Rolls Royce autos, John Lennon's 1965 Mercedes Benz, and Paul McCartney's beloved Mini Cooper. Classic and muscle cars are on display side by side, including Don Garlits, dragster number two! The museum features immaculately restored vintage automobiles spanning over a one-hundred year history of man's automotive genius!

Check out their site for more car descriptions and the history of the museum. We will have our own docent to guide us on our 2 hour tour that will begin promptly at 2 PM. After the tour we will head to Barnacle Bill's for dinner. If you only have time for the museum or just want to join us for dinner, please let Ben know so we have accurate counts for both locations. *** PLEASE NOTE - ALL CHECKS ARE MADE PAYABLE TO: TAMPA SECTION MBCA ***.



Directions: Located directly across from the Ringling Museum of Art on the northeast corner of US 41/Tamiami Trail and University Parkway. Below are various directions.

General Directions from other parts of Florida: Take I-75 to exit 213 (University Parkway). Head west for about 7 miles. You will pass a traffic light at Airport Circle. The next light is at US 41 / North Tamiami Trail. Across the street is the Ringling Museum of Art. Turn right onto US 41 and you will see the museum. Take the first right into the parking lot.

Directions from Sarasota: Head north on Tamiami Trail. The museum is located on the right at 5500 N Tamiami after the intersection with University Parkway.

Directions from Bradenton: Head south on Tamiami Trail. The museum is located on the left at 5500 N Tamiami Trail, shortly after the light at General Spaatz Boulevard (Shell station) and before the light at University Parkway

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday June 24, 2012

WHERE: Sarasota Classic Car Museum
5500 N. Tamiami Trail (US 41)
across from the Ringling Museum
941-355-6228
Barnacle Bill's • 5050 N. Tamiami Trail

COST: \$6.50/person for museum

CALL: Ben Berman • 941-355-2469
bib1946@aol.com

TIME: 2:00 PM museum • 4:15PM (or so) dinner

RESERVE BY: June 15th

Web: <http://www.sarasotacarmuseum.org>

Sarasota Classic Car Museum & Barnacle Bill's June 24, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

No. _____ @ \$6.50/person

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Mail by June 15, 2012 to:

Ben Berman
4223 MacKay Falls Ter
Sarasota, FL 34243-4260

Tampa Section Goes Country At River Ranch

River Ranch, FL
February 25, 2012
By Lynn Hutchinson

What a great event this was!!! We drove to River Ranch on Saturday afternoon, February 25th where most of us spent the night. The hotel rooms were very nice and clean. There were a lot more rooms on the property than I originally thought.

At 5 p.m., the 24 of us met for the hayride and barbecue. The ride took us through the back country of Florida...and we were entertained by the guide who told the history of the area and he sang a few songs. It lasted about an hour. At the end was a buffet barbecue - hot dogs, chicken, beans, corn on the cob and salads. We opted to sit inside as it had turned cool.

Most everyone came back to our hotel room for some wine (to warm up) and snacks. At 8 the highlight of the evening was the rodeo. I was not expecting it to be so good. Bull riding was fun to watch and so were the girls doing the barrel racing, but my favorite was the fellow with the rope tricks. Amazing! Also, I was totally surprised at the huge number of people in the audience. I guess I thought it was going to be our group and maybe a few other people. There were probably over 200 people and the rodeo is a big deal. It is held every Saturday night. If you missed it, you can take your family and friends any weekend. After the rodeo, most of us came back and socialized in our hotel room.

After a nice buffet breakfast on Sunday morning, we stopped to see the colt that was 2 days old and walked thru the petting zoo where we saw a lot of baby animals. It was very nice.

This was a new event for the club and was well received. We have a lot of new events on the agenda for this year.



Above: Linda & Paul Cooper who handled this event.

Below: Nancy & Jim Merada



Above: Ben Berman with Dan & Debbie Cabrera

Left: Pat & Greg Watson



Above: Len Berman with Splash & Don Eckerson

Photos of this event taken by Dave Hutchinson





Above: Connie & Gary Dolin



Above: Lynn Paul & Linda Cooper and Chris & Pat Tornblom



Above: James & JoAnn Dean
Right: Bobbie & Jerry Rendel



Above: Lynn & Dave Hutchinson



On the Cover: Len Berman, Chris & Pat Tornblom, Linda & Paul Cooper, Lynn & Dave Hutchinson and Ben Berman

Our Day at the Polo Field

Sarasota, FL
March 25, 2012
By Dan Cabrera

A beautiful day at Lakewood Ranch...fun, food, friends and a very competitive Polo Match. Approximately 60 members attended the event. This group included first timers and the usual suspects. What I really liked, was that everyone took the time to mingle and enjoy the experience. I know I had the opportunity to meet members I did not previously know. I was impressed by how many members made the trek from "The Villages." Several of our members who reside at Lakewood Ranch were regular fans of the polo matches. They offered insight about many of the riders and nuances of the game. The match was tied 10 all at the end of regulation play. The visiting team garnered the win by scoring in the sudden death overtime. Many thanks to those members who arrived early and helped set up the 3 tents that provided shade and those who remained afterward to help clean up and take down the tents. Having this event one month earlier than in the past, paid off. It was no where near as hot as before and there was a noticeable lack of humidity. Please take time to thank the club officers for their continued hard work in making these events successful. My wife and I have made many friends as the result of these outings. I encourage all members to take advantage of the club events.

Right: Dan Cabrera



Above: The set-up crew Linda Cooper, Lynn Hutchinson, Paul Cooper & Penny & Gordon Gerow



Left: Lynn & Michael Gulick & their son, Brian!



Below: Patty & Case Whittemore from Virginia





Above: Gloria & Jerry Bock

Below: Betty Hendrix & Scott Suits



Above: Karen McBride and Ron Weaver

Below: Ed & Carolyn Jarotz



Above: Len Berman & his new Chevrolet Volt





Mercedes Complete Service & Repair

Michael LaMonte
Jim Zuppelli

4411 N. Lois Ave.
Tampa, FL 33614
813-870-1250
Fax 81813-870-1345

"30 Years Factory Trained"

Keith Tanguay, P.A.
REALTOR®

Michael Saunders & Company.
Licensed Real Estate Broker

cell 941.330.5626 • office 941.907.9595 • fax 941.907.8802
KeithTanguay@michaelsaunders.com
8325 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard • Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34202
www.michaelsaunders.com





YOUR HOME STAND

Get hit by this pitch:

- Facilities and planning for corporate and private events for 10-200 people
- Customizable Meet & Play Packages with Rays tickets and transportation
- Corporate/Executive meeting packages
- Free Wi-Fi
- Full bar service with food
- 1 mile from the Trop
- Oh, and really comfy beds



St. Petersburg • Downtown
877-8-INDIGO
hotelindigo.com/stpetedowntown

Christer (Chris) Tornblom - 6/7/1945-3/29/2012

I spent much time yesterday hunting for photos of Chris for this page. As I was hunting I was also seeing & remembering others – Ron Watson, Mike McBride, Ruthann Orndorff – that are also gone too soon. Linda

Far right top: St. Augustine 1998 or 9 L-R Chris & Pat, Suzi Rogers, Linda Cooper, Norm Stuck, Paul Cooper & Ron Watson. Inset below are Chris & Pat at dinner that same day.

Right - Holiday brunch 2011

Below: At the same table with Ruthann - Holiday Brunch 2004

He was in several group shots at the Inn on the Gulf where we will be in May!



 **CROWN**
EUROCARS
The Better Way To Buy

800.330.2887

www.CrownEurocars.com

6001 34th Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33714

**We Are As
Passionate
About German
Engineering As You.**

We're Crown Eurocars. We've been selling and servicing Mercedes-Benz for decades. We're passionate about what we do. It's this kind of dedication for German vehicles and engineering that sets Crown Eurocars apart from everyone else.

If you're considering a new Mercedes-Benz or a Certified Pre-Owned Mercedes-Benz, don't settle for anything less than Crown Eurocars.

Crown Eurocars. The Better Way To Buy.



Certified Pre-Owned
by
Mercedes-Benz

Tampa Bay History Center Tour & Dinner



Details: From their web site: "The Tampa Bay History Center is more than a mere repository for historical facts. Functioning as a liaison between the past and the present, the museum honors our community's character and heritage, stirring the spirit of adventure found in all its visitors with the generations of stories it has to tell."

Step inside the 60,000-square-foot History Center in Tampa's bustling Channelside District and take a journey through 12,000 years of powerful stories. Follow in the footsteps of the first native inhabitants, Spanish conquistadors, pioneers, sports legends and railroad tycoons. During your journey, you will stroll through a 1920s-era cigar store, row up the Hillsborough River, ride along with a cattle drive and learn about the early exploration of Florida in a dramatic theater presentation." Go to their site listed below for more details.

Our docent guided tour will begin promptly at 2 PM for about 2 hours. The Tampa Bay History Center is proud to partner with the historic and critically-acclaimed Columbia Restaurant and to be home to the first Columbia Cafe. Located on the first floor of the History Center, the Cafe boasts indoor and outdoor seating areas. We will be dining on the patio weather permitting after the guided museum tour at about 4:00 PM.

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

Directions: FROM I-275 NORTH OR SOUTH - Traveling north on I-275, take the Ashley Street/West Tampa Exit #44 to downtown. Traveling south on I-275, take the Downtown East-West Exit #45A to downtown. Turn left on Jackson Street. Turn right on Morgan Street. Turn left on Channelside Drive. Turn right on Old Water Street.

PARKING: Visitors can park at the Tampa Bay Times Forum parking lots, the Channelside parking garages, various downtown surface lots, downtown street parking or the Ybor City parking garage, taking the streetcar to the Channelside District. Parking fees vary based on availability and scheduled events at surrounding locations.

<http://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org>

Important Info

WHEN: Sunday, July 22, 2012

WHERE: **Tampa Bay History Center**
801 Old Water Street • Tampa, FL 33602
Columbia Cafe
801 Old Water Street • Tampa, FL 33602

COST: \$7.50 / person for Museum - dinner off the menu

CALL: Dave & Lynn Hutchinson • 727-726-6711
or via email Dhutch@verizon.net

TIME: 2PM - for Center tour • Dinner around 4 PM

RESERVE BY: July 15th

Tampa Bay History Center Tour & Dinner July 22, 2012

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

No. _____ \$7.50/person – Enclosed _____

Make check payable to:

Tampa Bay Section MBCA

received by July 15, 2012 to:

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

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 – 2006 320E CDI, silver-gray. Mercedes serviced, never been in an accident. Purchased new from local dealer. 48,000 miles, 28-37 MPG. Warranty until April 2012. Leather, Premium Pak I and II. Sunshade, Dash Navigation. \$24,900.00 Tampa, FL; call Cell 813-230-7370

FOR SALE – 2 - 1984 Mercedes 300 Turbo Diesels. One a Sedan and One a Wagon. Both Need work and have not been driven since 2005.. Solid bodied Southern Cars. Call for more pics and info. Roger Woodward 727.421.6667

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 – 1975 240D Baby Blue original perfect paint, navy interior, totally restored by certified Mercedes mechanic. 300,000 + miles. Contact Kathy Medick @ 727 437 7325 (home) or 727 641 6632 (Cell). FYI this is long time MB member Ron Watson's councour award winning "Mercy".

FOR SALE – 1987 560 SL, silver (original)/navy interior (recovered in '07), 105,000 miles, converted A/C, new tires on original wheels, original soft & hard top, new Jensen radio. Asking \$12,500. Call Cheri at 727-365-5268



Find us on
Facebook

RENN HAUS OPEN HOUSE/SWAP MEET/COOK-OUT

Saturday April 28, 2012 Time: 10:00AM - 2:00PM
BBQ Lunch Served (12:00 - 1:00)

Address: 6244 Clark Center Ave Unit 1 • Sarasota, FL 34238

Buy, Sell or Trade Those Old Parts
Show-Off Your Car –
Or Just Drop By To Visit

RSVP to Stephanie by Friday April 20th so we can plan for food

Call 941-922-3600 or email: stephanieh@rennhaus.com



YOUR ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR GERMAN CAR NEEDS

SERVICE & REPAIR OF:



- Free Estimates
- Factory Trained Technicians
- Family Owned & Operated Since 1994
- Specializing In Historic German Cars
- Call 547-0818 For An Appointment Today



GERMAN TECH, INC. • 10881 75th Street North • Largo, FL 33777
Business Hours: Mo-Fr 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • (727) 547-0818 • info@germantech.com

