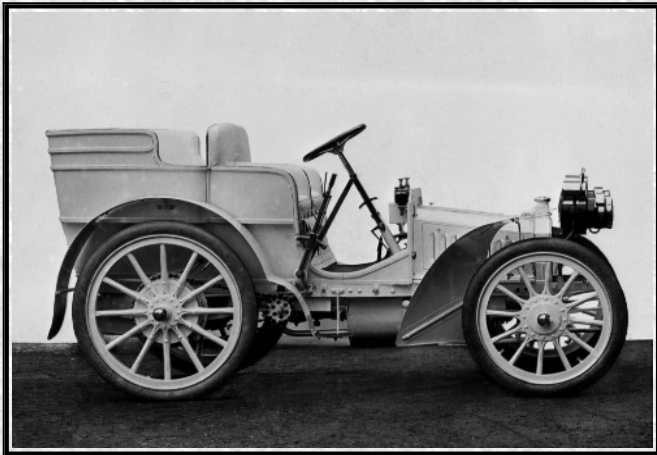




Tampa Bay Star

January 2024

Mercedes Benz Defining Class since 1886



1901-1902



2024 EQE 350 – All electric

Coming Events

February 10, 2024
Cars Charity & Coffee
Lunch

March 24, 2024
Lunch at Great Catch

April 19 – 21st
Navy Seal Museum
Wildlife Sanctuary

Important Dates

Note: The night for the monthly business meeting is the **FIRST MONDAY** of each month (except for September and sometimes July & January when it is delayed a week) and is open to ALL members. Attending members go to a nearby restaurant for dinner after the meeting. Please join us and help us with your input. All meetings are held at **Crown Eurocars, 8302 US Hwy 19 N, Pinellas Park, FL**

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| Meeting Dates | |
|--|---------------|
| Feb 5 | Monday 6:30PM |
| Mar 4 | Monday 6:30PM |
| Apr 1 | Monday 6:30PM |
| May 6 | Monday 6:30PM |
| Jun 3 | Monday 6:30PM |
| Business Meeting & Dinner after each meeting on the above scheduled dates. | |

| Event Dates | |
|-------------|--|
| Feb 10 | Cars, Coffee & Lunch Crown Eurocars Details in this issue |
| Mar 26 | Lunch at Great Catch Zephyrhills Details in this issue |
| Apr 19-21 | Overnight event Navy Seal Museum Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Details in next issue |

About the Newsletter

The Tampa Bay Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America Inc., publishes this bi-monthly newsletter. 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 pwatson511wedge@gmail.com. Copy deadline is the first day of the month.

An Overview of the Club

Established in 1956, MBCA has more than 15,000 members in over 84 sections across the nation. Those local sections organize hundreds of events each year, ranging from social gatherings to specialized technical sessions. This is a not-for-profit organization.

Join the Club

Enroll as a member of MBCA for
One Year \$85
Two Years \$165

Call 719-633-6427 Tues-Thurs
9:00AM to 3:00PM or sign in to
MBCA.org

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 calendar 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

Hello all Members

As we start our new year several changes have occurred within MBCA. First, MBCA has sold their main office building. The new location, hours of operation and phone number is shown in this newsletter. Second, dues for new members or renewing members has increased to \$85.00 for 1 year and \$165 for a 2 year membership. The good news is that MBCA will now re-start the rebate program to send some funds back to the individual sections, so we may start to see some income again. Also, MBCA is re-structuring their web site, adjusting the Star Magazine to be profitable again and exploring new revenue sources. Read the Jan/Feb Star magazine on page 10 for the Executive Director's Message by Kathryn G. Carruth for complete details.

Our Tampa Bay section of MBCA is forging ahead with several events already planned for February, March and April of 2024 and our 1st event, already held on Jan. 21st is in the history book. As you read our newsletter, Jonathan Sones will recap the fun lunch he sponsored at Harry's on 4th St., prior to the Festival of Speed at the Vinoy, in St. Petersburg.

At our December 2023 brunch I asked for member's reviews of the events from the past two years. The results are in for the top 5 events in 2022 & 2023. 1st place for both years Safety Harbor Holiday Brunch, 2nd place tied, Tampa History Center and Pier 22 Lunch, 3rd place 3-way tied- Silver Springs Boat tour, Solomon's Castle and Tarpon Turtle lunch. 4th place two years in a row, Picnic at Safety Harbor park and at Philippe Park. 5th place was the Dauer Auto Museum, Sunrise Fl., and Old Castle Restaurant, Sun City, Fl, for October-fest.

For the balance of the year we would like your input as to what you want to do. Would you like to see a road rally, go to another auto museum, and maybe attend a track to watch a race? Our members get to choose and sponsor events for May-November. Looking forward to hearing from you as to what you want to do.

Thank you,

Greg Watson

Please note the MBCA national business office mailing address and main phone number have changed as follows:

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
10 Boulder Crescent Street, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Please note the 800# is no longer in service.
The existing non-toll-free number will remain as the sole number.

(719) 633-6427 (Tues-Thur, 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Mountain time)

Cars Charity & Coffee at Crown Eurocars/Lunch at La Teresita



Important Info

When: Saturday, February 10, 2024
Where: Crown Eurocars
 8302 US Hwy 19 N
 Pinellas Park, FL
Call or Text: Greg Watson
 941-539-8700
Email: gwatson511@verizon.net
Time: 9AM to 11AM at Crown
Lunch: La Teresita Restaurant at 11:30AM
 7101 66th St N, Pinellas Park, FL
Reserve By: February 3, 2024

Details: Show your Benz or your favorite car, look at Crown's new inventory, drink coffee or just come to talk to fellow members. Come early if you want to show your car, or come any time between 9AM to 11AM to just spectate. We will meet at Crown Eurocars and later enjoy lunch at La Teresita Restaurant. Please let us know if you plan to display your car and/or if you are meeting us for lunch. It is also important to let us know if you will attend the Cars/Coffee at Crown so we can estimate the amount of coffee to purchase.

Cars and Coffee is open to all Mercedes-Benz owners and other specialty car owners. Lunch is for Tampa Bay Members only.

We hope to see you there!

Cars Charity & Coffee, Lunch February 10, 2024

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

___ Coming to Crown for Coffee # ___ Coming to lunch Yes, I want to display my car _____

Must be received by February 3rd
 Mail to: Greg Watson
 1801 6th St E, Palmetto, FL 34221
 or email gwatson511@verizon.net
 or call/text 941-539-8700 to reserve



Cars, Charity & Coffee



Crown Eurocars & Tampa Bay Section of MBCA

Crown Eurocars, Pinellas Park, Fl. and Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Tampa Bay Section, will be hosting Cars, Charity & Coffee to benefit, **Habitat for Humanity-Pinellas & West Pasco, County, Fl.** This event is open to all Mercedes-Benz owners and other specialty cars. Only those that are registering to show their car will need to donate a minimum of \$5.00. We will be accepting charity donations for **Habitat for Humanity** in any amounts over the \$5.00 minimum. This is an Open event for all to view new and used cars of all types and enjoy coffee, the cars and the great feeling you get, knowing that you're helping others.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Location | Date | Time |
| Crown Eurocars | February 10th, 2024 | 9:00AM till 11:00AM |
| 8302 US Hwy 19N | | |
| Pinellas Park, Fl. 33781 | | |

If you would like to enter your car for the showing you will need to preregister by **Feb. 3rd, 2024** by using the form below. Email to Greg Watson, at gwatson511@verizon.net with the details of your vehicle and then mail your donation check with the registration form below. Space for cars is limited so register early.

Brand _____ Model _____ Year _____ License Plate _____

Ext. Color _____ Int. Color _____ Special options _____

Crown Eurocars and MBCA Tampa Bay section are not responsible or have any liability for any cars, persons or contents of cars entered into the show.

Owners Signature _____ Print Name _____

Phone # _____ email _____

Minimum donation for registering to show your car is \$5.00, checks only, made payable to; "Habitat For Humanity Pinellas W. Pasco" and mail to; Greg Watson, 1801 6th St. E. Palmetto, Fl. 34221
To show your car, your check and this form must be received **by Feb. 3rd, 2024** and plan to arrive at **Crown Eurocars, Feb.10th, between 8:15 am-8:45 am** to have your car placed in its brand category.



Lunch at Great Catch, Zephyrhills, FL



Important Info

When: March 24, 2024
Where: Great Catch Restaurant
 5039 1st St, Zephyrhills, FL
 813-782-7770
Call: Pat or Greg Watson
 Home 941-776-7194
 Cell 941-539-8700
Email: gwatson511@verizon.net
Time: 1:30PM
Reserve By: March 17, 2024

Details: Join us for a delicious lunch at the Great Catch Restaurant in Zephyrhills. The club favorites are fried catfish, frog legs, and the lobster roll. See the menu above for other interesting lunch options.

Directions: Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location or call Greg Watson, 941-539-8700.

Lunch at Great Catch

March 24, 2024

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ for lunch \$2.50 Per Person enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to:
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Must be received by Mar 17, 2024
 Mail to: Pat or Greg Watson
 1801 6th St E
 Palmetto, FL 34221

Lunch at Harvey's 4th St Grill/Festival of Speed

January 21, 2024

By: Jonathan Sones

About 22 club members and guests met for lunch at Harvey's 4th Street Grill in St. Pete on a chilly January 21 morning, including a handful of members we don't get to see very often! Food and fun were on tap as old friends reconnected, and new faces got to see the fun we have when we all get together.

Among the several great cars in attendance, the star was probably a shiny late-model S65 in a gorgeous black over tan color combo.

A few members decided to brave the chilly wind and go walk the big car show downtown in St. Pete, Festivals of Speed. Although we didn't have any member cars (that we know of!) on the show field this year, we'll probably make this a regular event, so mark your calendars for next year's Festivals of Speed in St. Pete!



Right side, Gary & Connie Dolin, Patrick Myelle, Bill Lyons, Rodger Baker, Gladys Cochran, Kathy Sones, Pat Watson, Left side, Lynn Hutchinson, Chris & Susan Cotroneo, Marcia & Edgar Schulz, Jonathan Sones, Greg Watson



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