



# Tampa Bay Star

**June 2024**

## Triple Play Event – April 2024



Navy Seal Museum



Ragtops Car Museum



### Coming Events

June 23, 2024  
Imagine Museum & Lunch

July 13, 2024  
Lunch at Old Castle

August 18, 2024  
Casablanca at Tampa Theatre  
& early dinner



# 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**

## Officers

**President** Greg Watson  
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C941-539-8700  
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## Chairpersons:

**Membership** Paul J. Cooper  
727-726-6837  
C727-644-6837

**Activities** Lynn Hutchinson

**Photography** Dave Hutchinson

**Historian** Lynn Hutchinson

**Webmaster** Pat Watson

**SE Regional Director**  
David Wommer  
davidwommer@gmail.com

## Meeting Dates

Jul 1 Monday 6:30PM

Aug 5 Monday 6:30PM

Sept 9 Monday 6:30PM

Oct 7 Monday 6:30PM

Business Meeting & Dinner after each meeting on the above scheduled dates.

## Event Dates

June 23 Imagine Museum & Lunch  
Details in this issue

July 13 Old Castle Restaurant Lunch  
Details in this issue

August 18 Casablanca Movie at Tampa Theatre  
Early dinner  
Details in this 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](mailto: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](http://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 to all Tampa Bay Chapter friends,*

*We are now starting our half way mark of the year. It looks like this year will be hotter than ever, so we will be looking for indoor air conditioned events until at least September.*

*The new website has been up and running for a couple months. We have heard that some members haven't been receiving our newsletter. Please remember every newsletter is posted on the MBCA site, along with our monthly events, so you should be able to keep up with activities and news. If you have problems, let me know by email.*

*For June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we have a new event for all of us to attend. Please mark your calendars and plan on enjoying the Imagine Museum in St. Petersburg that Connie Dolin is sponsoring.*

*Our planned May 19<sup>th</sup>, Car Rally, by Jonathan Sones looked like it could have been a submarine rally based on the projected rain forecast for that Sunday morning. So instead the call was made to just have lunch instead.*

*The April 19-21st, Triple Play event on the East coast turned out very well. The weather was perfect, and 14 members were able to attend the overnight event.*

*If you have any thoughts for fun filled events, please send them our way.*

*Remember, Be Safe and Have a Fun filled summer.*

*Regards,*

*Greg Watson*



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

Note: New website at [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org)

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)



# Imagine Museum and Lunch, St. Petersburg, FL



## Important Info

**When:** June 23, 2024  
**Where:** Imagine Museum  
 1901 Central Ave  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
 727-300-1700  
**Call or Text:** Connie Dolin  
 941-720-8322  
**Email:** c.dolin@verizon.net  
**Time:** 10:30am tour arrive **no later than 10:15AM**  
**Lunch:** Red Mesa Restaurant at 1PM  
 4912 4th St. N., St. Petersburg  
**Reserve By:** June 17, 2024

**Details:** The Imagine Museum features a spectacular collection of contemporary glass art from around the world. Currently a special exhibit by Louis Markoya featuring his 3-D art is on display. Markoya first became interested in holographic lenticular technology when he worked with Salvador Dali in the early 1970's. It wasn't until 30 years later that he discovered 3-D fractals to make these exceptional pieces of 3-D art.

Admission price in \$10 per person. The tour starts at 10:30am but everyone should arrive no later than 10:15am. There is parking in the back of the museum.

**Directions:** Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location or call Connie Dolin at 941-720-8322.

## Imagine Museum and Lunch June 23, 2024

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to:  
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Must be received before June 17th  
Mail to: Connie Dolin  
5037 Benito Ct  
Bradenton, FL 34211

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Coming \$10 Per Person enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ for Lunch

# Old Castle Restaurant Lunch



**Important Info**

**When:** July 13, 2024  
**Where:** Old Castle Restaurant  
 3830 Sun City Center Blvd  
 Unit 107  
 Ruskin, FL 33573  
**Cost:** \$2.50 per person  
**Call or Text:** Dave & Lynn Hutchinson  
 727-420-0424  
**Email:** dhutch@verizon.net  
**Time:** 1PM  
**Reserve By:** July 5, 2024

**Details:** Join fellow members at the Old Castle Restaurant for our July event. Old Castle Restaurant is a family-owned restaurant serving authentic German cuisine, a full liquor bar, German beer and the best apple strudel for dessert. Lunch is on your own from the extensive menu.

**Directions:** Put the address into your navigation system, smart phone, GPS, google maps or Mapquest for specific directions from your location or call Dave or Lynn Hutchinson at 727-420-0424.

## Old Castle Restaurant Lunch July 13, 2024

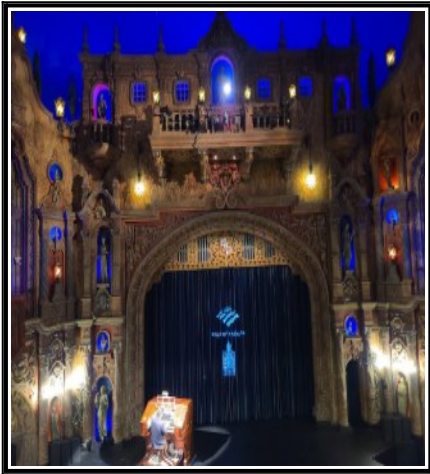
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
 Tampa Bay Section MBCA

Must be received by July 5, 2024  
 Mail to:  
 Dave and Lynn Hutchinson  
 2104 Flamingo Place  
 Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
 Email: dhutch@verizon.net  
 Phone: 727-420-0424

# \_\_\_\_\_ Coming \$2.50 Per Person enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Casablanca at Tampa Theatre & early dinner



## Important Info

**When:** August 18, 2024  
**Where:** Tampa Theatre  
 711 N. Franklin St, Tampa, FL  
**Cost:** \$12.00 per person  
**Call or Text:** Dave & Lynn Hutchinson  
 727-420-0424  
**Email:** dhutch@verizon.net  
**Time:** 2:45 PM – movie begins at 3PM  
**Dinner:** Colombia Restaurant  
 2117 E 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Tampa, FL  
 5:30PM  
**Reserve By:** August 4, 2024

**Details:** The historic 1926 Tampa Theatre is sponsoring summer film classics every Sunday this summer. Join our members in viewing Casablanca the 1942 film featuring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Admission price in \$12 per person. The movie starts at 3PM, so please be there at least 15 minutes early and please factor in parking. The theatre does not have parking, so some options are:

Option 1 - William F. Poe Garage about 3 blocks west of the Theatre at 800 N. Ashley Drive. Hourly rates start at \$2.00

Option 2 - Private lot immediately adjacent to the Theatre and one on the block southwest of the Theatre (between Zack and Twiggs) Pay at the automated parking kiosks or through the Parkmobile or 717 Parking app.

Early dinner is at the Colombia Ybor City at 5:30PM.

## Casablanca at Tampa Theatre & Early Dinner August 18, 2024

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
 Tampa Bay Section MBCA  
 Must be received by August 4, 2024  
 Mail to:  
 Dave and Lynn Hutchinson  
 2104 Flamingo Place  
 Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
 Email: dhutch@verizon.net  
 Phone: 727-420-0424

# \_\_\_\_\_ Coming \$12.00 **Per Person** enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ for Lunch

# Triple Play Event, Ft. Pierce/Stuart, FL

April, 2024

By: Greg Watson

The April 19-21st, Triple Play event on the East coast turned out very well. The weather was perfect, and 14 members were able to attend the overnight event. The Navy Seal museum was even better than any of us expected. Special thanks to Chuck Cooper who advised that we should allow at least 2 hours, since he had already visited the museum a few years before. I think we could have all spent even more time there, but with travel time from our homes to Ft. Pierce and the closing time of 4:00pm we spent as much time as we could. It was well worth the trip. The evening dinner at the Boat House was very good and 14 of us enjoyed the meal and camaraderie there. The following morning 12 of us ventured south to Ragtops Motors in Lake Worth Beach, where we tried not to drool on the many convertibles and rarely seen American and foreign hot cars that brought back memories of our youth.

After our tour we had brunch on the water at the world famous and historic Old Key Lime House in Lantana, Fl. We all needed to indulge in the refreshments and fine food before heading back up North, 32 miles to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter, Fl. Our tour guide Olivia, provided so many insights into the life of the many wild animals, birds, reptiles and more. The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary provides rehabilitation to as many wild creatures as possible. Those that can not be released back to their native habitat due to injuries or other concerns for their safety are provided for and used to educate others to help prevent new arrivals of wild creatures. Dinner Saturday evening at Sailors Return was another great dinner and the close of our official event. Many of us enjoyed the company of our friends at the Hampton Inn in Stuart for the evening before retiring and heading back home on Sunday morning. I'm sure many of us will be looking forward to the next weekend trip



Left to right: Connie & Gary Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson, Debbie Cabrera, Len Berman, Kathy Sones, Elaine & Jimmie Lee, Ben Berman, Greg & Pat Watson



New Navy Seal recruits getting ready for Hell week: Lynn Hutchinson and Pat Watson





Lynn Hutchinson outside the Old Key Lime House



Jimmie & Elaine Lee shopping for a volkswagon Beetle



Outside the Ragtops, Left: Pat Watson, Lynn Hutchinson, Connie Dolin, Debbie and Dan Cabrera, Gary Dolin, Greg Watson, Elaine & Jimmie Lee



Ragtops, Left: Pat Watson, Dan Cabrera, Gary Dolin, Lynn Hutchinson, Debbie Cabrera, Connie Dolin, Greg Watson



Olivia, tour director at the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary

Dan and Debbie Cabrera making friends with the wildlife





# Road Rally starting in Crystal River

May, 2024

By: Jonathan Sones

Our May rally was canceled, out of an abundance of caution and concern for safety, due to a forecast of rain and storms across the entire route.

However, the rain that was promised never really materialized, so in the end, the rally would have been a resounding success. We will reschedule the rally using a similar route as soon as possible - we know many of you enjoy the rally drives!

We did meet for lunch at the proposed rally end point, Casa Tina in downtown Dunedin, for some delicious traditional Mexican dishes and fun conversation.

Thanks to all who signed up - keep your eyes peeled for the next rally!



Left side: Susan Cotronei, Kathy Sones, Connie & Gary Dolin, Jane Adamick at end of table, Right side: Chris Cotronei, Jonathan Sones, Lynn Hutchinson, John Adamick

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