



Tampa Bay Star

May 2025

March Event – National Weather Service Tour



Important Dates

Officers

President Greg Watson
941-776-7194
C941-539-8700
gwatson511@verizon.net

Vice President Benjamin I. Berman
941-355-2469
bib1946@aol.com

Secretary Lynn Hutchinson
727-726-6711
C727-420-0424
dhutch@verizon.net

Treasurer Benjamin I. Berman
941-355-2469
bib1946@aol.com

Past President Gary Dolin
941-896-6881
C941-720-8270
g.dolin@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor
Pat Watson
941-776-7194
C941-840-2906
pwatson511wedge@gmail.com

Chairpersons:

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

Activities Lynn Hutchinson

Photography Dave Hutchinson

Historian Lynn Hutchinson

Webmaster Pat Watson

MBCA Nat'l 719-633-6427 (Tues-Thurs,
9:00AM-3:00PM MT time)
MBCA of America
10 Boulder Crescent Street,
Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
MBCA.org

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**

Meeting Dates

June 2 Monday 6:30PM

July 7 Monday 6:30PM

Aug 4 Monday 6:30PM

Sept 8 Monday 6:30PM

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

Event Dates

Jun 6 Sunset Grill & Beach Bar
Ruskin, FL

Jul 11 Tarpon Turtle
Tarpon Springs, FL

Aug 17 Tampa Bay Theater
Tampa, FL

Details in this newsletter for all 3 events.

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.

Mercedes-Benz
Roadside Assistance
Call 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES
24 Hours a Day

President's Message

Hello Tampa Bay friends,

As we transitioned from winter to spring, our club has rallied and we have all had a great time at the last 3 events. First, was our March event to the National Weather Service in Ruskin, with 30 members, hosted by Ben Berman. Second was our Snappers Comedy Club dinner and laughs, with 17 members, thanks to Lynn Hutchinson. These two events are reviewed in detail in this issue. Finally, we just returned from our May overnight event, which I hosted, to Revs Institute in Naples. Revs Institute was just named #3, in USA Today's top Ten list of car museums in the nation. The details of this trip will be in the next issue of our Newsletter, so stay tuned.

Looking forward to summer we have a lunch scheduled for Friday, June 6th at Sunset Grill, Ruskin, Florida with beach views over to St. Pete and Tampa Bay. On Friday, July 11th, we will be going to the Tarpon Turtle restaurant, with lake views on Lake Tarpon. On Sunday, August 17th the club will be going to the Tampa Theatre for the summer classic film, Roman Holiday, details and reservations are in this issue for all 3 events. Be sure to sign up early especially for the Tampa Theatre which typically sells out.

I now have a notebook in the Crown Eurocars service lounge area with our Newsletters and information about how to join MBCA - Tampa Bay Chapter. Also, remember that Crown does offer Tampa Bay Chapter members a 10% discount off of labor on most services, so be sure to show Crown your membership card when the service tech is writing up your work order, not after the job is done.

Take care, be safe, and join us for fun at our events.

Greg Watson

Fun Facts about Mercedes Benz

Mercedes Made a Hybrid in 1906

While hybrids are highly coveted now, Mercedes made a hybrid back in 1906, well before they ever became popular. Named the Mercedes-Benz Mixte mode, the vehicle had a gasoline engine in the front, while a dynamo supplied spark for the two motors that powered the rear wheels. The Mixte even had an impressive top speed of 75mph.

First to Have Brakes on All Four Wheels

By the middle of 1924, all Mercedes-Benz vehicles were sold with brakes on all four wheels – solidifying their priority on safety. Following that accomplishment, by 1931, Mercedes introduced the 170, which had suspension on all four corners. Up front, leaf springs absorbed imperfections in the road, while the rear was fixed with an innovative spring suspension system.

Antilock Brakes were Created by Mercedes

Mercedes once again created innovative technology by implementing the breakthrough technology known as anti-lock brakes Developed with Bosch specifically for the 1978 S Class, anti lock brakes soon became a standard on all Mercedes vehicles.



Read about our visit to Revs in the next newsletter.

Sunset Grill and Beach Bar, Ruskin



Important Info

When: Friday, June 6, 2025
Lunch: Sunset Grill and Beach Bar
602 Bahia Del Sol Dr
Ruskin, FL
813-607-2900
Call: Pat Watson
Home 941-840-2906
Email: pwatson511wedge@gmail.com
Time: 1:00 PM
Reserve By: May 30, 2025

Details

Our June event is lunch at the Sunset Grill and Beach Bar located at the Resort & Club at Little Harbor in Ruskin. Overlooking a secluded beach and the beauty of Tampa Bay, a table at the Sunset Bar & Grill offers a view of the city of Saint Petersburg across the water! It is a perfect place to relax and enjoy the company of your fellow members while looking to find something to tempt your taste buds!

All Sunset Grill restaurant guests park for FREE in the designated lot. That is the first lot to the right when in front of the establishment. LOOK FOR THE SIGNS! If the designated lot is full the restaurant offers 3 hours of validation but have to ask. (The restaurant is located by a beach parking lot, so look for the signs.

Sunset Grill and Beach Bar June 6, 2025

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

_____ \$2.50 Per Person enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to:
Tampa Bay Chapter MBCA

Must be received by May 30, 2025
Mail to: Pat Watson
1801 6th St E
Palmetto, FL 34221

Tarpon Turtle Waterfront Grill, Tarpon Springs, FL



Important Info

When: Friday, July 11, 2025
Lunch: Tarpon Turtle Waterfront Grill
 1513 Lake Tarpon Ave
 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
 Phone: 727-940-5360
Call: Lynn or Dave Hutchinson
 Cell Phone: 727-420-0424
Email: dhutch@verizon.net
Time: 1:30 PM
Reserve By: July 3, 2025

The July event is lunch at the Tarpon Turtle in Tarpon Springs. Members will experience waterfront dining on the largest lake in Pinellas County, Florida, while indulging in their delicious menu items and refreshing cocktails. With stunning views of the water, friendly service, and a relaxed atmosphere, Tarpon Turtle is the perfect destination for a memorable dining experience with your fellow club members while beating the July heat!!

Tarpon Turtle Waterfront Grill July 11, 2025

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

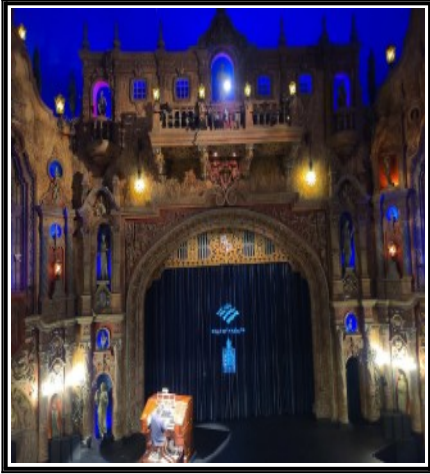
Address _____

_____ \$2.50 Per Person enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks payable to:
Tampa Bay Chapter MBCA

Must be received by July 3, 2025
 Mail to: Lynn or Dave Hutchinson
 2104 Flamingo Place
 Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Roman Holiday at Tampa Theatre & early dinner



Important Info

When: August 17, 2025
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: 2:30 PM – movie begins at 3PM
Dinner: Harpoon Harry's Crab House
 225 S Franklin St, Tampa, FL
 5:30PM
Reserve By: August 1, 2025

Details: The historic 1926 Tampa Theatre is sponsoring summer film classics every Sunday this summer. Join our members in viewing Roman Holiday the 1953 film featuring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn. Admission price in \$12 per person. The movie starts at 3PM, so please be there at least 30 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.

Parking lots fill up so get there early Please!! Also, these shows sell out so get your reservations in early, as tickets will be purchased in advance and are non-refundable.

Early dinner is at Harpoon Harry's Crab House.

Roman Holiday at Tampa Theatre & Early Dinner August 17, 2025

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to:
 Tampa Bay Section MBCA
 Must be received by August 1, 2025
 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 Early Dinner

National Weather Service Tour and Lunch

March 21, 2025

By: Ben Berman

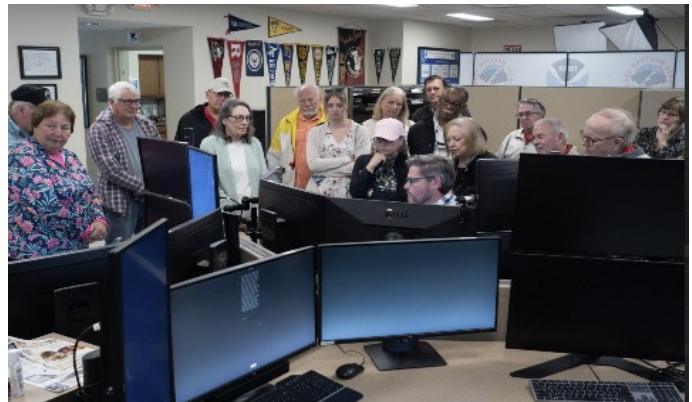
Apropos of the occasion, perfect weather greeted some 30 members of the Tampa Bay Chapter on March 21 as they met at the National Weather Service office in Ruskin, FL. There Meteorologist Stephen Shively used multimedia displays and physical demonstrations to provide a fascinating glimpse into the world of weather forecasting, as well as a basic explanation of how weather systems form and their impact on our lives.

In a lively question and answer session, Shively fielded far ranging questions from the MBCA crowd, addressing issues such as the world wide efforts to collect basic data; the various systems that have developed to interpret the raw data; the unique geological features in Florida that affect its weather; and the impact of dramatic recent reductions in federal employment on the operations of the NWS. As the final piece de resistance, Shively inflated one of the storied weather balloons used to collect data in the upper atmosphere around the world each day.

The excursion ended with lunch at the Old Castle restaurant in Ruskin, the Chapter's go-to German style restaurant.



Stephen Shively, Meteorologist and Tour Guide



ABOVE - (From left:) Diane & Chuck Cooper, Steven & Donna Rae, Dave Barcza, Norman, Victoria Ross, & granddaughter, Lee Kalessis, Omar Montague, Mary Elizabeth Pluchino, Lynn Hutchinson, Jimmie Lee, Len Berman, Paul Cooper, Debbie Cabrera

RIGHT - (From left:) Steven & Donna Rae, Terri & Dave Barcza, Carmine Pluchino, Norman Ross & granddaughter, Lee Kalessis, Omar Montague, Mary Elizabeth Pluchino, Lynn Hutchinson, Jimmie Lee, Len Berman, Paul Cooper



Left: Greg & Pat Watson, Norm Ross, Victoria Ross and granddaughter, Len Berman, Ben Berman



Below, Donna & Steven Rae



Above: Jimmie & Elaine Lee



Above: Susan & Chris Cotronei



Left: Laura Angelelli, Janet Montague, Frank Angelelli

Right: Paul Cooper, Lynn & Dave Hutchinson, Dan & Debbie Cabrera



Snappers Grill & Comedy Club

April 3, 2025

By: Lynn Hutchinson

We had a total of 17 members and guests that attended the April event, a great turnout for a week night. Dinner was served at 6:30PM. and was quite good. The comedy show began at 7:30PM. There were 3 comedians. The first was an emcee and in my opinion he was just okay. He was followed by a female comedian that was a bit better. The headliner was a special featured act and was slightly better than the two previous entertainers. This was the first time that we had an evening event and we probably shouldn't do another night event because our club members are spread out throughout the Tampa Bay area. It makes a very late night to drive home. There was a lot of traffic that night and several members had to drive an hour and a half or two hours just to get to Snapper's in time for dinner. If we do another night time event it should be part of one of our overnight events.



Above: (From Left) Lynn Hutchinson, Susan & Chris Cotronei, Laura & Frank Angelelli, Jimmie Lee, (From Right) Gary & Connie Dolin, Lee & Joanne Kalessis, Michael Lynche



Above: (From Left) Dave & Terri Barcza, Ben Berman, Michael Lynche, Connie Dolin, (From Right) Elaine & Jimmie Lee, Len Berman, Laura & Frank Angelelli, Chris & Susan Cotronei, Lynn Hutchinson



Above: (From Left) Dave & Terri Barcza, Michael Lynche, Joanne & Lee Kalessis, Connie & Gary Dolin, (From Right) Elaine & Jimmie Lee, Laura & Frank Angelelli, Chris & Susan Cotronei, Lynn Hutchinson



Welcome to Crown Eurocars

Over 50 Years Serving St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Tampa and Beyond!
Your Ultimate Destination for Mercedes-Benz, Sprinter and AMG

Best of the Best Recognized Dealer

Proud Partner of the Mercedes-Benz Club of Tampa Bay
Enquire about Special Benefits

Michal Niezbecki,
General Manager



SPRINTER

AMG

CrownEurocars.com