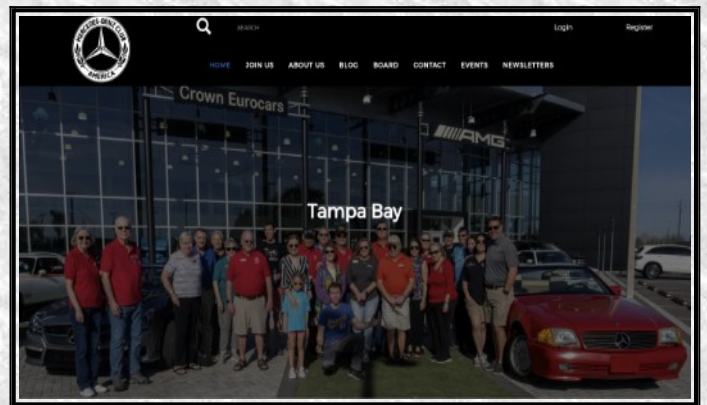
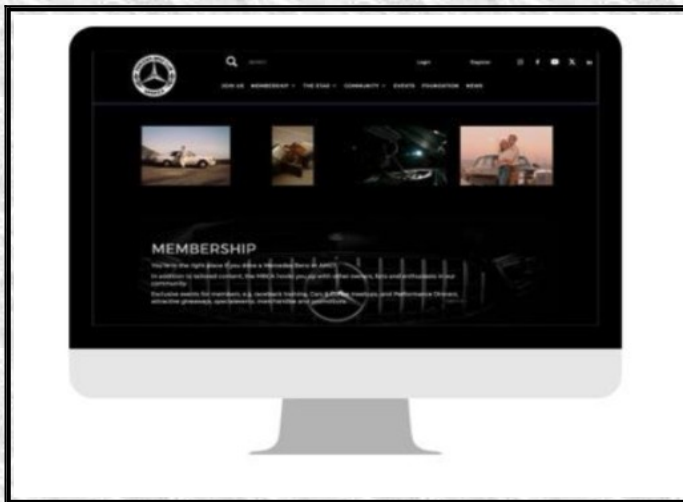




# Tampa Bay Star

**April 2024**

**Check out the New Website – [MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org)**



## **Coming Events**

April 19th – 21st  
Triple Play Event

May 19, 2024  
Car Rally & Lunch

June 23, 2024  
Imagine Museum & Lunch

# 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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gwatson511@verizon.net

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## Chairpersons:

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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	
May 6	Monday 6:30PM
Jun 3	Monday 6:30PM
Jul 1	Monday 6:30PM
Aug 5	Monday 6:30PM
Business Meeting & Dinner after each meeting on the above scheduled dates.	

Event Dates	
Apr 19-21	<b>Overnight event</b> Navy Seal Museum Ragtops Museum Busch Wildlife Sanctuary
May 19	Car Rally & Lunch Details in this issue
June 23	Imagine Museum & Lunch 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,

One quarter of this year is already over. As we move into the next 3 months, several major events have already taken place or will be shortly. First, we will be going over to the East coast for our Triple Play event on April 19-21st. Our overnight trip will be to the US Navy Seals Museum, then the Ragtops Motorcar Museum and finally the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Of course there will be food and drinks involved as well. Next will be our May 19<sup>th</sup> Road Rally, somewhere near Clearwater/ St. Petersburg area. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will visit the Imagine Musuem for a new 3D art exhibit. So be sure to sign up for all these fun events.

Our March 24<sup>th</sup> event to the Great Catch restaurant in Zephyrhills, Fl. was a huge success. Over 30 members enjoyed their choice of delicious seafood prepared in the Boston tradition.

Now the biggest news is that our MBCA has rolled out the new National website and it will have many new features and more member involvement. So be sure to go to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) where you will need to log in and create your new member password and then your member profile. Be sure to include your email, phone# and your Mercedes-Benz model and year. Your email address is critical for you to be able to receive our Newsletters. Also, be sure to allow emails that have "MBCA TampaBay" in the header. Also, **Glueup** is the software company that has made many of the features available on the new MBCA.org website. If you see **Glueup** in any correspondence, **it is safe**.

You may have noticed the greeting at the top is different, MBCA.org has changed the title of everyone's "Section" to "Chapter". So we are now Tampa Bay Chapter.

Remember, Be Safe and Have Fun.

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

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)

# Road Rally starting in Crystal River



## Important Info

**When:** May 19, 2024  
**Where:** Meeting point at Winn-Dixie  
 1651 U.S. Hwy 19  
 Crystal River, FL  
**Cost:** For rally is \$7 Per Car  
**Call or Text:** Jonathan Sones  
 770-866-3519  
**Email:** jonathan.sones@icloud.com  
**Time:** 8:45AM  
**Lunch:** 1PM  
**Reserve By:** May 14, 2024

**Details:** Join us on May 19 for a fun drive along the coast! We'll start in Crystal River and work our way South, popping in and out of some fun roads, all the way down to Clearwater for a late-ish lunch. There are a variety of roads to drive on, from some high speed runs on the Suncoast Parkway, to some twisty scenic roads out to the gulf.

Along the way, you'll have some sights to look out for and you have to follow printed directions, so bring a navigator - the most accurate answers win a major award. When you arrive at the start point, you'll get printed directions with the questionnaire attached and any last minute information.

Note - since we're weaving around a bit, this is a drive of about 120 miles from Crystal River down to the restaurant, so plan for about 3- 3.5 hours total once you leave. This is **\*\*NOT\*\*** a race, so drive safe!

We'll meet in the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie in Crystal River (1651 U.S. Hwy 19, Crystal River, FL 34429). Opening remarks will be at 8:45 or so, and we'll officially kick off the rally at 9 AM. There is a breakfast restaurant in the same shopping center that opens at 7AM, if you want to start your day early!

Lunch will be at a restaurant near the rally end point. The rally end point, and so the lunch restaurant, are a well-guarded secret (you have to follow the directions to get to lunch!) but suffice to say, we'll have a nice place to sit and recount our adventures!

We hope to see of you there!

Jonathan

## Road Rally and Lunch May 19, 2024

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

Make checks payable to:  
Tampa Bay Section MBCA

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Must be received by May 14, 2024

Mail to: Jonathan Sones

1243 Brookside Dr  
Clearwater, FL 33764

Email: [jonathan.sones@icloud.com](mailto:jonathan.sones@icloud.com)

Phone: 770-866-3519

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch Cost is \$7.00 Per Car \_\_\_\_\_



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Must be received before June 17th

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Connie Dolin  
 5037 Benito Ct

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bradenton, FL 34211

# \_\_\_\_\_ Coming    \$10 **Per Person** enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_    # \_\_\_\_\_ for Lunch

# Great Catch Lunch, Zephyrhills, FL

March 24, 2024

By: Pat Watson

Our March event was a “Great” success at the Great Catch Restaurant. Thirty one members took the scenic country drive to Zephyrhills to have a taste of Boston in an old Florida style restaurant. Great Catch is a place that offers both northern and southern style seafood. The restaurant is so popular that on a late Sunday afternoon, we had a 20 minute wait even with a reservation. While we waited for our private room, we caught up with our friends and fellow members. Once we were seated, it was difficult to choose from the wide selection of different seafood. The food was excellent and the company even better.



Left Side: Lynn Hutchinson, peeking out Connie & Gary Dolin, Right: Bob & Catherine Martino, Lynn & Michael Gulick, Jane Adamick



Left Side: Terri & Dave Barcza, Margaret & Chris Gregoriou, Debbie & Dan Cabrera, Right: Ravi Kanuri, blur is Jonathan & Kathy Sones, Len & Ben Berman, Chuck & Diane Cooper



Left Side: Jimmie & Elaine Lee, Right: Gladys Cochran & Rodger Baker



Diane & Chuck Cooper





Ben Berman & Len Berman



Kathy & Jonathan Sones



Margaret & Chris Gregoriou



Terri & Dave Barcza



Michael & Lynn Gulick



John & Jane Adamick



Mike Davis & Carol Sweet



Catherine & Bob Martino



Ravi Kanuri



Dave & Lynn Hutchinson



Connie & Gary Dolin

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