



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE SPRING 2022

Valentine Brunch at the Knox Mansion

The fabulous Knox Mansion was the venue for our 2022 Valentines Brunch. Plenty of snow made for a serene winter day to celebrate our loved ones in countryside elegance.



NIAGARA SECTION OFFICERS

President

Joanie Long
8561 Falls Road, West Falls, NY 14170
716-655-4515
joanielong@verizon.net

Vice President

Jeff Gaffney
2936 Southwestern Blvd, Or. Pk. NY
14127 716-677-4195
jeff@lockmaster.net

Ex-Officio
William L. Fix
wllfx@aol.com

Secretary

Deborah Boehm
75 Southwedge Dr., Getzville, NY 14068
716-689-0502
dab248@verizon.net

Treasurer

Beverly Basinski
4375 Homestead Ln., Clarence NY 14031
716-759-1130
bevbasinski@gmail.com

Northeast Regional Director

Drew Webb
rdswebb@gmail.com

The NICKEL CITY STAR is published quarterly. Opinions, ideas and suggestions in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher or MBCA. No authentication is implied by the publisher or MBCA. No inference should be made that the products or services advertised herein have the approval of the publisher, MBCA, Daimler AG or MBUSA. The trade names and the trademarks "Mercedes-Benz", "Mercedes", and the three pointed star in a circle are owned by Daimler AG and are authorized for use by its licensees, which include MBCA. Personal ads for parts and auto sales are free to members (\$20 for non-members, per occurrence), and commercial ad rates are available upon request from the editor.

Nickel City Star Advertising Rates

Annual Sponsorship Rates are as follows:

Full Page ad \$350

1/2 Page ad space \$200

1/4 Page ad space \$125

Business card \$100

Submit ad copy and/or graphics to genelong@verizon.net.

Questions, please email or call 716-912-2902.

(No inference should be made that the goods and services advertised have the endorsement of the Niagara Section or MBCA.)

Check out our website: niagara.mbca.org

**“Niagara Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America”**



*The MBCA Niagara Section has its own Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, please click on “like” and “follow” for our page. If you do, then you will receive notices of events and photos that are posted. To find our page, search: **Mercedes-Benz Club of America-Niagara Section**.*

You might also want to check out Niagara Section on the National MBCA website. This is not a Facebook page but it is available to anyone on the internet. Besides the National club information, our section will have activities listed and brief descriptions of the results of the events.

2022 EVENTS CALENDAR - PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE

Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F 8am—5pm MT, or visit www.mbca.org

niagara.mbca.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! Enjoy the sun! It's time for some Mercedes fun!

As we look forward to spring and summer, your Niagara Section leaders have been busy planning events throughout the summer. Be sure to check the 2022 Calendar on the last page for the list of activities and fun ways to enjoy our cars and each other.

To share a quote, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless!" Club events are planned and coordinated by our members with guidance from our Events Coordinator, Gary Baumgartner, and our club officers. We welcome your ideas for new adventures and your help with any upcoming events.

We hope to see many of you this spring and summer. Check the list of upcoming events and the contact information of our officers and think about becoming more active in this terrific club. Email is our best way to communicate messages, but telephone numbers are listed on Page 2 if you have questions. Check our Facebook page for current information and photos of our recent events.

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME, and thank you for joining us!

Sydney Palmerton

Williamsville

Kimberly Walden

Grand Island

Kaitlyn Carrigan

Depew

Jonathan Graff

Williamsville

Velinda Zoeller

Orchard Park

John Scheider

Kenmore

Matt Schiavone

Buffalo

James Anderson

Lockport

Marilyn Ciancio

Amherst

(Current members: Don't forget to renew!)

Annual Wine Tasting

Club members arrived on a cold January day at the home of Mike and Melanie Smith, where we were warmly met at the door and welcomed into their home.

All in all, we numbered about eleven members and within minutes, the dining room table was covered with all kinds of wine-pairing foods. After some mingling and discussing the Buffalo Bills, our attention was directed to the primary event of the day; the presentation and tasting of the wines. As always, we had many varieties which we eagerly sampled.

The presentation of each wine was as entertaining and memorable as the wine itself. Some wines were selected because it was the presenter's recent favorite, some discovered a bottle in their house, and one was even home-made and now had an opportunity to share it.



HISTORY OF THE CAR RADIO

Seems like cars have always had radios, but they didn't. Here's the story:

One evening, in 1929, two young men named William Lear and Elmer Wavering drove their girlfriends to a lookout point high above the Mississippi River town of Quincy, Illinois, to watch the sunset. It was a romantic night to be sure, but one of the women observed that it would be even nicer if they could listen to music in the car.

Lear and Wavering liked the idea. Both men had tinkered with radios (Lear served as a radio operator in the U.S. Navy during World War I) and it wasn't long before they were taking apart a home radio and trying to get it to work in a car.

But it wasn't easy: automobiles have ignition switches, generators, spark plugs, and other electrical equipment that generate noisy static interference, making it nearly impossible to listen to the radio when the engine was running. One by one, Lear and Wavering identified and eliminated each source of electrical interference.

When they finally got their radio to work, they took it to a radio convention in Chicago. There they met Paul Galvin, owner of Galvin Manufacturing Corporation. He made a product called a "battery



Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F 8am—5pm MT, or visit www.mbca.org

niagara.mbca.org

eliminator", a device that allowed battery-powered radios to run on household AC current. But as more homes were wired for electricity, more radio manufacturers made AC-powered radios. Galvin needed a new product to manufacture. When he met Lear and Wavering at the radio convention, he found it. He believed that mass-produced, affordable car radios had the potential to become a huge business.

Lear and Wavering set up shop in Galvin's factory, and when they perfected their first radio, they installed it in his Studebaker. Then Galvin went to a local banker to apply for a loan. Thinking it might sweeten the deal, he had his men install a radio in the banker's Packard. Good idea, but it didn't work. Half an hour after the installation, the banker's Packard caught on fire. (They didn't get the loan.)

Galvin didn't give up. He drove his Studebaker nearly 800 miles to Atlantic City to show off the radio at the 1930 Radio Manufacturers Association convention. Too broke to afford a booth, he parked the car outside the convention hall and cranked up the radio so that passing conventioners could hear it. That idea worked. He got enough orders to put the radio into production.

WHAT'S IN A NAME: That first production model was called the 5T71. Galvin decided he needed to come up with something a little catchier. In those days many companies in the phonograph and radio businesses used the suffix "ola" for their names. Radiola, Columbiola, and Victrola were three of the biggest. Galvin decided to do the same thing, and since his radio was intended for use in a motor vehicle, he decided to call it the "Motorola."

But even with the name change, the radio still had problems:

- When Motorola went on sale in 1930, it cost about \$110 uninstalled, at a time when you could buy a brand-new car for \$650, and the country was sliding into the Great Depression. (By that measure, a radio for a new car would cost about \$3,000 today.) In 1930, it took two men several days to put in a car radio. The dashboard had to be taken apart so that the receiver and a single speaker could be installed, and the ceiling had to be cut open to install the antenna.
- These early radios ran on their own batteries, not on the car battery, so holes had to be cut into the floorboard to accommodate them.
- The installation manual had eight complete diagrams and 28 pages of instructions.

Selling complicated car radios that cost 20 percent of the price of a brand-new car wouldn't have been easy in the best of times, let alone during the Great Depression.

Galvin lost money in 1930 and struggled for a couple of

years after that. But things picked up in 1933 when Ford began offering Motorola's pre-installed at the factory. In 1934 they got another boost when Galvin struck a deal with B.F. Goodrich tire company to sell and install them in its chain of tire stores. By then the price of the radio, with installation included, had dropped to \$55. The Motorola car radio was off and running. (The name of the company would be officially changed from Galvin Manufacturing to "Motorola" in 1947.)

In the meantime, Galvin continued to develop new uses for car radios. In 1936, the same year that it introduced push-button tuning, it also introduced the Motorola Police Cruiser, a standard car radio that was factory preset to a single frequency to pick up police broadcasts. In 1940 he developed the first handheld two-way radio, The Handy-Talkie for the U. S. Army.

A lot of the communications technologies that we take for granted today were born in Motorola labs in the years that followed World War II. In 1947 they came out with the first television for under \$200. In 1956 the company introduced the world's first pager; in 1969 came the radio and television equipment that was used to televise Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon. In 1973 it invented the world's first handheld cellular phone. Today Motorola is one of the largest cell phone manufacturers in the world. And it all started with the car radio.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO the two men who installed the first radio in Paul Galvin's car?

Elmer Wavering and William Lear ended up taking very different paths in life.

Wavering stayed with Motorola. In the 1950's he helped change the automobile experience again when he developed the first automotive alternator, replacing inefficient and unreliable generators. The invention led to such luxuries as power windows, power seats, and, eventually, air-conditioning.

Lear also continued inventing. He holds more than 150 patents. Remember eight-track tape players? Lear invented that. But what he's really famous for are his contributions to the field of aviation. He invented radio direction finders for planes, aided in the invention of the autopilot, designed the first fully automatic aircraft landing system, and in 1963 introduced his most famous invention of all, the Lear Jet, the world's first mass-produced, affordable business jet.

(Not bad for a guy who dropped out of school after the eighth grade.)

Sometimes it is fun to find out how some of the many things that we take for granted actually came into being, and it all started with a woman's suggestion!

How Sweet It Is!

Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast At Genesee Country Village -By Bill Fix

As Covid finally has begun to release its strangle hold on us, our club is rebounding. Even before Erie County began to lift its mandates for the wearing of masks, restrictions on restaurants and businesses, our club was providing opportunities for our members to once again get out and begin to socialize. Beginning with our Valentine party at the Knox Mansion, followed by a “tech session” at Johnny Dents paint-less dent removal garage and our monthly meetings at Sean Patrick’s restaurant; our appetite has been wet for more, and we delivered with this event at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford, New York.

Our Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast has been a March staple since 1995. This is the 26th year of a Western New York event that now officially spans 4 days on 2 weekends. Even though Maple syrup production is down this year due to weather conditions, there is still plenty of this sticky delight to top off our pancakes. Genesee Country Village produces its own syrup (and you can buy some from their store to take home.)

Our hostess, Ann Frederick, provided us with reserved seating and a special discounted fee for both the pancake breakfast and the Maple Sugar Festival.

Twenty of our dedicated members turned out for this event, and since we all arrived a little early, we were seated in the dining room before the general public, so we had the opportunity to be the first in line for the buffet breakfast of pancakes with creamy or regular maple syrup, sausage links and patties, scrambled real eggs, maple syrup oatmeal, French toast infused with maple syrup, home fried potatoes, assorted French pastries, coffee, tea and or-



ange juice.....all you can eat! No one went away hungry.

After breakfast, all but two of us took up the challenge of walking the “sugar bush,” a trail through the maple forest growing on the village grounds. With the wind howling and some light snow blowing around, we soldiered forward. By the time we reached the start of the trail we looked like “abominable snow people.” As the trail wound through the forest, we found stations set up to demonstrate how the Haudenosaunee Indians collected sap from the trees and boiled it down to become syrup. Further down the trail were other stations demonstrating how the pioneers (often farmers and their whole families) collected the sap and also boiled it down to syrup and then painstakingly converting it into blocks of solid maple sugar that could be stored for use throughout the year. The demonstrators were dressed in period clothing and were very knowledgeable.

Some of our members retreated back to the warmth of the dining room or the village gift shop. The hardest among us completed the trail and finished the day with a maple beer in the village tavern. It was great to experience a return to “normal!”



Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F 8am—5pm MT, or visit www.mbca.org

niagara.mbca.org



BenzTalk

Paint-less Dent Removal (PDR) Demonstration by Jonny Dents

Jon Koller, owner of our new sponsor, Jonny Dents, was our gracious host on March 5 at his West Seneca shop. Jon had prepared a comprehensive array of methods of removing blemishes including dents, dings, scratches, headlight fading—all without repainting panels.

With expert commentary, Jon did live demonstrations of PDR, scratch removal buffing, headlight repair, and even let us try our own hand at taking dings from a used fender.



Jon also answered numerous questions from the members based on his lifelong career in body work. Our 18 members enjoyed the day and the refreshments provided, and we all know where to go when the inevitable encounter with a shopping cart happens!



Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F 8am—5pm MT, or visit www.mbca.org

niagara.mbca.org

Buffalo's Favorite
Carpet Store!



PAUL D. MURPHY

Phone: 716-886-7000
Fax: 716-886-6008
Cell: 716-867-8589

G&L Flooring Center, Inc.

- CARPET & AREA RUGS •
- LAMINATE & HARDWOOD FLOORING •
- CERAMIC & NATURAL STONE TILE •
- INSTALLATION & REPAIRS •

www.gandlflooringcenter.com
Email: paul@gandlflooringcenter.com

200 Grant Street
Buffalo, NY 14213-1606

KEEP YOUR CAR AT THE TOP WITH



SPECIALIZING IN EUROPEAN & EXOTIC AUTO REPAIR
ALL TYPES OF CARS ALL TYPES OF REPAIR
4915 RANSOM RD
CLARENCE N.Y. 14031

NATHAN G RAUPP
PRESIDENT & MASTER TECHNICIAN

CALL: 716-759-8686
FAX: 716-759-8689



(716) 677-4195

Every car needs two keys!

For over 40 years, Lockmaster has provided the highest level of technical proficiency and dependable service. Long relationships with government agencies, automotive dealers, major retailers, large and small manufacturers and independent local businesses have kept us at the forefront of developing technology and customer needs. We have been WNY's most reliable 24 hr service over all of those 40+ years. Call us or stop in today!

2936 Southwestern Blvd
Orchard Park, NY 14127

<http://www.lockmaster.net/>
jeff@lockmaster.net

WHEELS AND DEALS

Wheels and Deals ads are FREE to all Mercedes-Benz Club Members, \$20 for non-members.

Please note: ads will appear in one issue only, unless specifically requested. Submit ads and requests to Editor or email genelong@verizon.net

(No Ads this issue.)



Jonny Dents
Paint-less Dent Removal
Dings / Dents / Scratches



Call/Text 716-242-9316

3480 Clinton Street at Union
West Seneca, NY 14224

SOUTHTOWN'S TIREMAN



- Tires, all brands
- Wheels
- Brakes
- Alignments
- Oil Changes
- NYS Inspections
- Towing, 24 Hours

*All Makes and Models
Appointments Appreciated*



Call 716-941-6681

8964 State Road (NY 240), Colden, NY 14033

Looking for a(nother) Mercedes?

2nd Hand Lions finds and delivers pre-owned vehicles!

Available now: 2008 SL550 Roadster with 62K miles. Magma Red with Beige Leather interior. Super clean , well maintained, no winters. Club special \$24K.



Gene Long Call or Text: 716-912-2902 email: genelong@verizon.net
Trades Accepted.....Discounts for Club Members!



2022 CALENDAR

Monthly Member Meetings: April 19 and May 17, 2022 and then the third Tuesday of September, October and November at 6:30 PM. All members and guests are always welcome to attend.

**Location: Sean Patrick's, 3480 Millersport Highway,
Getzville 14068**



- **April 19—Monthly meeting, speaker Gary Baumgartner: Railroad Safety**
- **May 15 - Inspire Moore Winery and Rheinblick Restaurant, Canandaigua.***
- **June 13—Cruise Night at the Wurlitzer featuring cars of the Niagara Section***
- **June—(date TBD) Zippo museum tour***
- **June, July—Car Shows and more***
- **August, Summer Picnic, To be announced...***

Please see our Facebook page and our website Niagara.mbca.org for calendar information and details!

***Watch for future announcements and details on email!**

*Members of all sections and guests are always invited to Niagara Section events.
Also, check The Star and www.mbca.org for national events listings.*

Advertisement



European model shown.

The new standard has arrived in Buffalo.

Introducing the all-new 2022 SL-Class.

Mercedes-Benz
of Buffalo



Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo 8185 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 391-3035 www.mercedesbenzbuffalo.com