



# NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

SUMMER 2020

## The Past in Pictures

While we don't really have any new events to report, we thought it may be interesting to show some past happenings; See also pages 5-7.



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**Trivia question:**  
**Can You Name This Vehicle?**



The SCV 7 Popemobile; During the papal visit to the United States in September 1987, a pair of Mercedes-Benz 230 G popemobiles were flown to Washington, D.C. and modified by the United States Secret Service to provide access to the papal compartment from the driver's cabin, a design that continued to be used after the trip. One of these vehicles has been retired and is currently on display at the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

Check out our website: [niagara.mbca.org](http://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.*

**2020 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](http://www.mbca.org)

[niagara.mbca.org](http://niagara.mbca.org)

"*Are we there yet?*" echoes in my ear as I recall my kids and grandkids repeating that question. Now I'm asking it while fully knowing the answer. No, we're not there yet. We need to stay safe and be wise about our social decisions. Unfortunately, that puts our upcoming Niagara Section activities on hold for a while longer. As we are free to gather, we'll send out flyers to all of you about our meetings and events. Our Christmas party is still on the calendar and, hopefully, we'll be able to gather safely for other events this summer or fall.

Gene and I have enjoyed some drives in our Mercedes and taken in Western New York's scenery, just to get outside. Our car, like our home, is a safe place to get away for a short time.

So, "we will get there" and in the meantime – enjoy a ride now and then... and please take care and stay healthy!



## **NEW MEMBERS**

*WELCOME , and thank you for joining us!*

***Theodore Passero***

*Clarence Center*

***David Ehrke***

*Amherst*

***Aaron Loganathan***

*East Aurora*

***Don Girard***

*Buffalo*

***Deborah O'Shea***

*Buffalo*

### ***Renewals received:***

***Andreas Wiggenhagen, Edith Kurczewski, Charles Vallone, Scott DeRose, Joseph Divincenzo, Gary Reiche, Thomasine Williams, Richard Hilliker, William Fix, Jack Gimlin, Gary Crosby, William O'Day, Zeki Al-Saigh, Tony Battista, Gerald Thomas, Jeff Gaffney, Reynold Jennetti, Janice DeCarlo, David Doherty***

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

# *Celebration of Life*

## Michael John Repko

Dec. 14, 1936 - May 30, 2020

Michael John Repko, a resident of East Aurora from 1965 to 1990 and a resident of Elma from 1990 to 2020, died on Saturday, May 30 at Mercy Hospital. He was 83. Mr. Repko was born Dec. 14, 1936 in McAdoo, Pa., the son of Michael and Susan Repko. He was a 1956 graduate of Bassick High School, in Bridgeport, Conn.

Mike was a long term active member of the Niagara Section and took extreme pride in his many Mercedes-Benz cars over the years. He enjoyed car shows, driving, and caring for them, old and new. Mike always pitched in, hosting numerous events for our section and supporting most of the events that were held. He loved to wear German attire at our events, and took pride in his well-adorned hats.

Mr. Repko enjoyed the outdoors and loved to travel with his wife and children, instilling in them a love of traveling. He and his family traveled to almost every state on the Eastern Seaboard, and he enjoyed taking them and visitors to Canada to see the sights. He married Louise Lang in 1960 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bowmansville. The couple traveled extensively including places such as to Puerto Rico, Nova Scotia. They went three times to Ireland and three times to Germany to visit with her family. They also toured Venice, Italy as a side trip on one of their Germany visits. In his earlier days, Mr. Repko liked to hunt and fish, and enjoyed fishing trips to the northern reaches of Canada with his buddies. He also enjoyed photographing nature and outdoor scenes as well as chronicling family events, and had won awards at the Erie County Fair for his entries.

For Mr. Repko, family was everything. He adored his wife of nearly 60 years, Louise, and loved being a father of three. Family gatherings were a particular point of pleasure and pride for him. He enjoyed the visits of family and friends, and a fine cigar and a glass of Jameson, either on his sun porch or out in the yard during the warmer months.

Mr. Repko was employed throughout his adult life by American Machine and Foundry, Fisher-Price Toys and Cello-Pack Corporation. Mr. Repko was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, which included dedicated service in the Army Reserves, in 1993. Mr. Repko achieved the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He was also a sharpshooter with the Army Reserves and won first place in a rifle match held in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Repko had been a rifle team coach for Iroquois High School, and the team and members earned a number of awards under his guidance. He was a member of the Elma Conservation Club and the Niagara Section - Mercedes Club. He had also served on the East Aurora Auxiliary Police and the East Aurora Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Repko is survived by his wife Louise M. (nee Lang); children Susan Repko, Steven (Susan) Repko, and Stephanie (Andrew Henderson) Repko; siblings of Anastasia (Edward) Pichulo, Mary Barbara Repko, and Benedict (Barbara) Repko, also survived by nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project by calling 855-448-3997 or visiting

[support.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate](http://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate)



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[niagara.mbca.org](http://niagara.mbca.org)

# The Past in Pictures Continued



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# The Past in Pictures Continued



2010



2011



2011

## STRATEGIC PLANS FROM MBCA NATIONAL

Recently, you received an email message from our National Club President and Niagara Section member, Julie Bruggner. In it she explained the process, as approved by the national board of MBCA, concerning changes coming to our club. With memberships falling at a serious rate, the board felt changes needed to be made to keep the club viable and financially stable. So, how does this affect our section?

**We have the valuable opportunity to express our views, ideas, and suggestions in a survey you'll be receiving by email in early August.** The national board is relying on all of us to respond honestly to the questions in this survey. It's only from individual section members that our thoughts and ideas can be expressed. I encourage you to take the time to complete the survey. This is OUR club, after all.

Please support the task of the newly hired facilitating firm, whose job it is to compile the survey data, report input and make recommendations, only, to our national officers and board of directors. Based on those recommendations, our club leaders will be making decisions regarding the future of the club.

Please contact me or our Regional Director, Drew Webb with questions or comments. Our contact information is listed on page 2. Thank you in advance for your consideration at this crucial time.

Joanie Long

President, Niagara Section



2010



2019

### NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

MBCA national elections will occur on or after September 1, 2020. You will receive a “National Election Ballot” from MBCA by email. Voting must be completed by October 15, 2020. Paper ballots will be available upon request, from the National Business Office. Candidate statements and photos will be printed in the Sept/Oct issue of The Star magazine.

We, in the Niagara Section, will be voting only for “Director-at-Large” positions this year. Our own Northeast Regional Director, Drew Webb, continues to serve his current term.

You’ll be asked to vote for up to four of the five candidates. Be reminded that your may vote for any number less than four.

Again, I am happy to answer any questions you may have, as I am now a member of the National MBCA Election Committee.

Joanie Long  
President, Niagara Section



### 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 [gerelong@verizon.net](mailto:gerelong@verizon.net)

(No ads this issue.)

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**Gene Long**    Call or Text: 716-912-2902    email: [genelong@verizon.net](mailto:genelong@verizon.net)  
*Trades Accepted.....Discounts for Club Members!*

## Your Ad Here...

The Niagara Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) provides an opportunity for members and businesses to sponsor the local club. To recognize our sponsors we provide local exposure to their organizations in our newsletter along with links to their websites. The Nickel City Star (NCS) is published four times a year and delivered via e-mail to each member. Additional copies are distributed throughout the MBCA community and to those members who have not provided an email address. The NCS is also published in full color on the Section's website: [niagara.mbca.org](http://niagara.mbca.org). Sponsorship of the Niagara Section is for a period of 12 Months, with automatic annual renewal and annual billing. The Niagara Section reserves the right to reject any sponsor or advertisement without justification. No inference should be made that the goods and services advertised on the website have the endorsement of the Niagara Section or MBCA. Annual Sponsorship Rates are as follows:

<i>Full Page ad</i>	\$350
<i>1/2 Page ad space</i>	\$200
<i>1/4 Page ad space</i>	\$125
<i>Business card</i>	\$100

Note: Please submit ad copy as a .jpg, .png, .pdf, Microsoft Office Word document, Power Point file, or Publisher file which will be scaled to accommodate formatting on the printed page.

Submit ad copy and/or graphics to [genelong@verizon.net](mailto:genelong@verizon.net) . Questions, please email or call 716-912-2902.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***Monthly Member Meetings:*** Normally, are held the third Tuesday of each month at Hillview Restaurant, 6:30 PM. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

***(No meetings scheduled for August or beyond, due to Covid-19.)***

- No Events are currently scheduled, but the calendar will be reissued as soon as possible. All events are to be determined (TBD\*) based on local conditions.

***Please see our Facebook page and our website [Niagara.mbca.org](http://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](http://www.mbca.org) for national events listings.*

Looking Ahead... **2021 CALENDAR**

2021 will be here before you know it, and hopefully we'll be able to meet to plan activities. Please contact our events coordinator, Gary Baumgartner with ideas for events we can hold in 2021. [garyandfranb@roadrunner.com](mailto:garyandfranb@roadrunner.com)

Advertisement





**INTELLIGENT LIFE ISN'T OUT THERE.**

*It's in here.*

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