



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

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

Christmas Party 2021

East Aurora Country Club



Many of us had attended our Christmas and Valentine's Parties at the EACC, so we knew what to expect... perfection! It was a beautiful, not-so-wintery day with peaceful views of the golf course. But all our attention was focused inside as we were greeted by Santa Claus himself, and the committee members who had done a masterful job working with Eric and his staff to make Christmas special for us.



Basinski. Congratulations to Bev for earning Officer of the Year! For 2021, the Member of the Year Award was presented to Gene Long, who previously served six years as President and over 15 years as Communicator/Newsletter Editor.

Fred and Mary Ann Liesinger and Ed Yungbluth and Bev Basinski once again did a splendid job of providing us such a beautiful venue for this year's holiday party. Niagara Section etched Irish coffee mugs were a nice touch as favors everyone will enjoy. Thank you to the committee!

More photos on page 6.

The party room was decorated for the holiday season and we were immediately in the spirit of the occasion. We enjoyed having a very good turnout of section members who not only enjoyed the venue, but the company of their fellow members. Several new members joined us and we were delighted to meet them.



Our charity for 2021 was again the "Family Justice Center" who locally support domestic violence victims and their children.

Membership Chairman John Boehm presented 5-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25- and 30-year pins to long-standing members. Awards were presented by President Joanie Long to Section Member of the Year for 2020, Bill Fix. And a special 2020 award was given to only one of dozens of officers in the entire Northeast Region, our own Treasurer, Bev



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NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME, and thank you for joining us!

Cheryl Dudley

Orchard Park

Heather Kowalczyk

Lancaster

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

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEWYEAR TO ALL! Or at least happier new year than last year. I guess we thought our Covid concerns would be over by now, but as we adjust to continued restrictions, masking and accommodations, we at the Niagara Section have many ideas for future events and activities. Included in this issue are results from a brainstorming session held by the Executive Board with many ideas of events and places to go! Also please read the article on our new group, BenzTalk. This is a new interest group within our club, focused on Benz car subjects open to all members. See page 7 for details. Please think about becoming more active in our section for all or some of these events. Our next section meeting will be held on January 17th , 6:30 at Sean Patrick's in Getzville. 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.



Schlachtfest 2021!

Finally, after pandemic interruptions, Spring Garden was able to reinstate the Fall Schlachtfest celebration, and member Jerry Knapp again hosted the Mercedes Benz Club with special privileges.

Again this year we arrived in our Mercedes for free admission and preferred parking inside the grounds on the lower meadow. Parking there allows us to offer our cars as a display for all who wish to take a look and have conversations with the owners.



Excellent food, music and dancing, beers, and companionship were enjoyed by all.



MB Club Event Ideas - 2022

Getting Involved...

This club is successful because of the effort and commitment of our loyal members.

When the Niagara Section Executive Board met this fall, we brainstormed many ideas for events, excursions and activities. It is our hope that an activity on this list will peak your interest and encourage you to step up to host/coordinate it. And, you are not alone—our Events Coordinator and officers will assist you every step of the way.

Event Ideas for 2022: (We welcome your ideas as well!)

- The Rheinblick Restaurant, Canandaigua, NY
- Cars and Coffee – various locations
- The Moondance cruise
- Maple Syrup breakfast
- Mumford History Museum
- Summer Picnic – park
- Spring Lake Train ride and wine tour
- Buffalo Transportation Museum/Hofbrauhaus
- Private car collection tours
- Chautauqua Institute Tour
- Forest Lawn Tour
- Fort Niagara tour
- Watkins Glen events
- Niagara Falls, NY
- Salamanca- Seneca Museum
- Denninger's, Hamilton, Ont.
- Joint car shows with other clubs – Como Park, Euro Day, etc.
- Double Decker Bus Tour
- Buffalo History Museum
- Buffalo Niagara Heritage Museum
- Buffalo Harbor Tours/cruises
- Grand Lady boat tour
- Cuba NY Lake Drive



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Graycliff Conservancy



By Gary Baumgartner

September 18, 2021 was a beautiful, late summer day and a perfect day for a tour of Graycliff, the Darwin Martin Summer House, which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Hosted by Gary and Fran Baumgartner, a total of 29 members, as-

esting narratives describing the renovations.

Inside the foyer, the inside restoration efforts became visible and as we progressed into the living room the open concept and



sociates and guests, gathered inside the Visitor Center/Gift Shop and then split into two groups, the first immediately started the tour in the Garden while the second group began in the Summer House.

abundant light, which are hallmarks of Frank Lloyd Wright's design, could be fully appreciated.

The Garden in full bloom, and the Summer House have both been restored to their original design and beauty. Before entering the house and while standing under the portico, our docents/guides Ben and Karen Little, gave descriptions of the outside restoration through meaningful, understandable, and inter-

All of the hard work and years of restoration by the members, volunteers, and professionals of the Graycliff Conservancy was clear. Their goal to return the houses and grounds to their original condition and beauty was a job well done!

Following the tour we proceeded to Danny's South restaurant where everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and discussion of the tour.



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Christmas Party 2021



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New! BenzTalk

**To All Niagara Section Members,...
Announcing a new phase of section activities!**

Our section is well recognized for our social events such as our annual Wine Tastings, Valentine's Luncheons, Beer-Fests, and Christmas Parties. We have enjoyed driving and dining, and many local tours as well.

Now, in addition to regular Niagara Section events, please welcome "BenzTalk", a refreshing approach to car-related activities! We want to get together and talk cars. It's not going to be just talk, either.

We are inviting all our members to enhance their club experience by joining the BenzTalk gang for Car Shows, Cruises, Driving events (both organized rallies and impromptu outings), Restoration, Repair and Maintenance workshops, too.

Look for an initial email message to be sent to all Niagara Section members, to announce a broadcast and response system, similar to a bulletin board or chat group, either on a text platform or email group (details to be determined.) When we have established the platform we will ask you to opt in or out so that all interested members can contribute, and so we don't burden everyone with too many communications.

We look forward to hearing from you and we will keep you in the loop as plans progress in the coming months!

**BenzTalk Committee:
Jeff Gaffney
Mike D'Ambrosio
Ed Mack
Gene Long**



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Road Rally!

Sunday, October 17th marked the day when Rallymasters Mike D'Ambrosio and Jeff Gaffney launched our Mercedes-Benz cars and SUVs from the Grey Street parking lot in East Aurora. We had our instructions and clue sheets in hand and we enjoyed following the route that had been planned and pre-tested at least three times before the event. Murphy's Law had already raised its head a few days earlier when the route had to be changed at the last minute, so the modifications had already been noted. But then (wouldn't you know it?) the day before the rally, the road comprising the last leg before we arrived at the destination, had been closed! That closure necessitated another re-route which added 10 miles to the trip.

All went well, none of the participants were lost, and some enjoyed a stop or two along the way. We ended the rally at the Lakeside Restaurant and Tavern on Keuka Lake and enjoyed a tasty lunch and toast-

ed our successful trip. Of course, no rally is complete unless there are winners. Scores were tallied and prizes were given to First Place winner Nathan Rifenberg and his

dad. Other winners were Paula Wheeler, Ed and Michelle Mack, Gene and Joanie Long, and Dennis and Christine Peruzzini.

After lunch and celebrations, we enjoyed a nice drive home, using the most direct route, naturally.

Thanks go to Mike D'Ambrosio and Jeff Gaffney for organizing a wonderful rally, and to Marlene Gaffney for decorating many pumpkins as Mercedes favors!



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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.)

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2022 CALENDAR

Monthly Member Meetings: Resuming January 18, 2022 and then the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

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



- **Annual Wine Tasting—Sunday, January 23 at Mike and Melanie Smith's 2 PM***
- **Annual Valentine's Luncheon, Sunday, February 13, Save the date.***
- **March— Maple Syrup Breakfast, To be announced.***
- **April, To be determined.***
- **May, To be determined.***
- **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

The advertisement is split into two main visual sections. On the left, a silver Mercedes-Benz E-Class sedan is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a paved surface against a light sky. On the right, a close-up view of the car's interior dashboard and steering wheel is shown, illuminated with a soft blue ambient light. The Mercedes-Benz logo is in the top left corner. The text "INTELLIGENT LIFE ISN'T OUT THERE." is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the top. Below it, "It's in here." is written in a white script font. At the bottom left of the image area, the text "THE MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS" is written in white capital letters.

Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo

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