



Nickel City Star

AUGUST 22, 2008

FALL 2008

www.mbcas.org/niagara

Coming Events: See page 2

MEETING CHANGE

New meeting place!

Buffalo Brew Pub

Main and Transit
Williamsville

New meeting day!

The Third Tuesday

September 16

October 21

November 18

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Canandaigua Show

...or, Wow, What a Day at Sonnenberg Gardens!

By Mary Rollinger

Midsummer temperatures and the welcome shade of ancient sycamore, oak, and maple trees graced the Canandaigua Car Show held at Sonnenberg Gardens on Fathers' Day, June 16th. Hundreds of car enthusiasts and several car clubs turned out for the event. Mercedes cars were there in force, a respectable showing with a dozen or so vintage cars entered by Finger Lakes and Niagara Section MBCA members.

Garnering first place for "best car" within the club display were Mike and Louise Repko in their 1984 380 SL, which features all original equipment (except tires and battery) and has only 26,000 original miles. It was a close vote, however, next to Gene and Joanie Long's 1984 280 SL which has not been restored and sports only 6,900 miles.



And that's not all. MBCA took "Best Car Club Display" by coordinating matching decorations. Silver, red and blue star garlands adorned the exterior of the vehicles, while star leis hung from the visors.

Cars were not the only attraction of the Fathers' Day Invitational at Sonnenberg Gardens State Park. Those of us fortunate enough to attend were treated to a delightful array of "things to do" including:

Touring the 1887 Queen Anne Style Mansion and strolling through the gardens, especially the rose gardens where the roses were in full regalia

Sampling the wine of several of the 40 regional wineries featured. (The wine tasting, by the way, was included with the price of the ticket.)

Shopping in the Sonnenberg Gift Shop and riding in the "Stretch golf carts" to enjoy various areas and natural beauty of the Sonnenberg State Park

Our sincere thanks to Pete Van Denburg for his efforts in coordinating this car event, which is only in its second year. Pete is also President of MBCA Finger Lakes Section. We look forward to a return trip next year.



Niagara Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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2008 FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

- **September 16—Monthly dinner meeting**, 6:30 p.m. Buffalo Brew Pub, Main near Transit, Wmvl
- **September 14—Schlachtfest at Spring Garden**, with Mercedes car display.
- **September 20—Oktoberfest Celebration and car show** (Saturday) 3 to 10 p.m. at Memorial Park, Village of Hamburg, corner of Lake St (Camp Rd.) and Union Street. Authentic German food (by Scharf's), wine and beer. Music by G.A.M.A. Blaskapelle, the Schnickelfritzers and the Schuhplattler Verein Heidengold dance group.
- **October 12—Chautauqua Chili Party and Guided Tour**—See below...
- **October 21—Monthly dinner meeting**, 6:30 p.m. Buffalo Brew Pub, Main near Transit, Wmvl
- **November**—to be determined—shopping excursion to Denninger's (Hamilton ON), and lunch.
- **November 18—Monthly dinner meeting**, 6:30 p.m. Buffalo Brew Pub, Main near Transit, Wmvl
- **December 14—Annual Christmas Party—Cabaret Restaurant**, 490 Pearl Street, Buffalo (Afternoon)

Members of all sections and guests are always invited to Niagara Section events.

Details of most events will appear in future issues of this newsletter or sent via email and/or posted at www.mbca.org/niagara. Or you may call Ed at 716-873-9226 for more information.

Check The Star and www.mbca.org for national events listings.

Event

A Fall Day In Chautauqua—Tour and Chili Party! October 12

We will meet on Sunday, October 12, at the Westfield exit of I-90 at 11:30 AM. From there we will caravan to the Welcome Center at Chautauqua Institution for light refreshments, then a one hour guided walking tour of historic Chautauqua Institution. Then a chili and cornbread party at the home of Mary and Don Husted until 4:00 p.m. Bring your favorite seasonal beer (or wine selection) to share. Participants will want to bring cameras to capture the peak colors of our fall leaves!

Cost: \$5.00 per person donation to cover the cost of food and supplies, collected at the door.

Reservations: E-mail to Linda Richards at: lenny7707@gmail.com with the subject line of "Chili Party" ...or call Linda at 716-485-1319.

By the way, if you are not receiving emails about events and other important notices from the club, please forward your email address to: genelong@verizon.net, so we can include you.

President's Message

By Gene Long



Reflecting on Summer 2008 lets me recall the great times which are highlighted in the pages of this newsletter.

Our June 7th Defensive Driving class, with active participation in your own car, proved to be a highlight of the summer. We were lucky to have nationally known instructors Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, to again teach us and reinforce valuable safe driving skills. Thanks to Ed Yungbluth for organizing this great event, Mike Repko for obtaining last minute transportation, and the Towns of Colden and Boston for loaning us the traffic cones we needed. Many new members attended and had their first taste of the accident avoidance capabilities of their cars.

Special thanks to Gary and Fran Baumgartner for organizing the Grand Lady Cruise, a huge success despite the rain, Shirley Fischer and Bill Fix for the Buffalo Bisons Game event, Herb and Shirley Fischer, and Dick and Emmy Sedlack for the Chautauqua Antique Car Club lake steamboat cruise and picnic event.

Looking forward, you will notice some new features, both in the newsletter and in our activities. Thanks go out to Bill Fix for his delightful articles and to Mary Rollinger, who is stepping up to author our new feature article, Star Member Profiles.

Our monthly meetings are resuming for the fall as usual on September 16. We have chosen a new day, the third TUESDAY, and new location for our meetings, the famous Buffalo Brew Pub. The new day of the week will hopefully give some members a better evening to be able to join us by avoiding conflicts. Our meeting room at the Brew Pub is on the first floor, and we can individually order dinner or light fare off the full menu.

We have big plans for the upcoming months, with event suggestions and working as organizers, too! Keep checking the website (thanks Art Bourget!) and I hope to see you at the meetings and events. Attend and bring friends!

The Chautauqua Belle, the Viking Club Car Show and Picnic with the Chautauqua Antique Car Club

Once again, the Niagara Section was privileged to accompany the Antique car club on a Chautauqua excursion. This year, the event began with the Chautauqua Belle, a venerable stern-wheel, steam powered lake vessel. The captain gave us a complete history of the ship itself and a good review of the shoreline. We left the mooring and headed to a regular stop at the Chautauqua Institution's Carillon Tower to drop off and pick up passengers on a delightful breezy day.



Then it was a short caravan to the Viking Club for an informal car show and a delicious picnic lunch with all the fun and merriment included. Food was scrumptious, desserts plentiful, and discussions boundless.

Thanks go out to Dick and Emmy Sedlack and Herb and Shirley Fischer who annually bridge the gap between our clubs. We had a great day, as you will see in the photos!





Welcome New Niagara Section Members

DAVID LEE FLECK and TIMOTHY FARNHAM

Niagara Section Membership remains high, but members are encouraged to keep recruiting! To our current members who have recently renewed, thank you!

Defensive! ...Driving

June 7, 2008 was a beautiful day at ECC North when the Niagara Section sponsored driving event allowed members to hone their driving skills and to experience the capabilities of their cars from a safety standpoint. Many thanks go to club driving instructors Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, who traveled from Ohio to conduct classroom and actual in-car training.



At the end of the day, many drivers were heard to remark, "I didn't know my car could do that!" and, "I feel so much more at ease with my car now!" Just simple things that make sense like adjusting mirrors properly, and looking for an escape route while driving can make all the difference in the world if you are facing a dangerous situation.



WHEELS AND DEALS

Wheels and Deals ads are FREE to all Mercedes-Benz Club Members.

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

2000 M-B E320, only 22k miles, Desert Silver over Java leather, burl walnut trim, sunroof, Bose sound system, remote lock, all records, mint condition, \$14,900 firm. 716-873-9226.



1983 M-B 300 Turbodiesel, 87k miles, China Blue/blue int., cold a/c, sunroof, auto, p/s, p/b, p/w, cruise, one owner all original, exc. cond., prof. serviced, new exhaust & radiator, asking \$11,950. Call 716-652-8552 or email genelong@verizon.net for pictures and more details.



THE GRAND LADY LUNCH CRUISE

Despite a teeming rain, club members and guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner and live commentary by the ship's Captain, highlighting points of interest along the route and the dynamics of the Niagara River. The Grand Lady, a beautiful and powerful motor yacht, took us upstream from the Holiday Inn in the direction of Lake Erie and the City of Buffalo. We were pleasantly surprised by a unique blend of residential, industrial, and parkland areas that en-rich our region. All comments were positive about the tour and the excellent food!



Organizer: Gary Baumgartner. Thank you Gary, for a wonderful day with great friends on the water!

WHERE'D THE BALL GO?

by Bill Fix

Twenty club members and/or guests turned out for the Bison's baseball game Friday, June 27th. The evening started with live (loud) music, along with three dollar hot dogs and beer on the outside pavilion before the game. Once inside, more beer and a greater selection of food – including peanuts and yes, Cracker Jacks. Although, the old, familiar Cracker Jack box has been replaced with a tin foil bag, and the “prize inside” has become a paper trivia fact (kind of like a fortune cookie, and probably comes from the same place).

The vendors began their chant of “ice cold beer here...” and we waited in anticipation for the National Anthem to be played, ending with the crowd shouting, “play ball!” For the baseball enthusiasts among us the excitement was there for the taking. It soon became apparent that an unusual element had been added that enhanced (or not, depending on your point of view) the suspense of the game. When a ball was hit out of the infield, it disappeared into a thick fog that floated in and out of the stadium during most of the game.

As it got later into the game, every player behind the pitcher also disappeared from view, hidden by the thick fog. In the ninth inning with the Bison's protecting a 1-0 lead, Matt Carson of Scranton, lofted a ball to deep left field. Obscured by the thick fog, the ball bounced over the fence for a ground-rule double.



With Scranton down to their last out, J.D. Closser hit a fly ball to center field. The ball dropped some where out there unseen by the Bison outfielders (did I mention that there was a thick fog?) and the game was tied. The Bison's managed to get out of the inning, and the game was finally suspended with two outs, the bases empty and a 0-2 count on the Bison's Chris Gimenez.

The game was rescheduled as a double header for the next day, picking up where we left off. Oh yeah! The fireworks scheduled for after the game were cancelled too (they said the fog was too thick). Do you know who won???? ...We sure didn't, but we all knew this....as usual; we had a great time and a fun evening!





STAR PROFILES — MIKE HOEGL

By Mary Rollinger

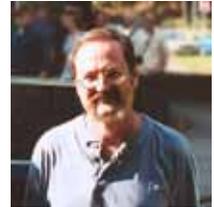
We are delighted that membership in the Niagara Section of MBCA continues to grow. With an increasing number of new members, we want to make every effort to help newcomers and veterans alike to get to know one another. Our goal, beginning with this issue of the Nickel City Star, is to feature one member in a "Star Member Profile." Featured club members will be selected at random from our entire membership pool. So, here goes with our first **Star Member Profile!**

One of our newer members, **Mike Hoegl**, who hails from Burlington, Ontario, graciously agreed to be the first Niagara Section member to be interviewed for this, our debut column. For many of us who have had the privilege of meeting Mike, he strikes us as being an easy-going, laid back guy with a penchant for appreciating the subtleties and quality of Mercedes design and structure, especially the older models. Mike has been interested in Mercedes since he was a child. In the 1960's his parents, good Mercedes role models, owned a 220 SE which sparked Mike's life-long affiliation with Mercedes. When asked what keeps his attraction for Mercedes going strong, Mike responds, "The sheer fun of it!"



Mike has a unique collection of Mercedes Benz's including:

- A 1970 600 Long Wheel Base (LWB)
- A 1985 300 GD
- A 1995 SL74
- A 2007 E320 CDI Bluetec



What follows are Mike's responses to our queries. Enjoy!

N.S.: Aside from owning, driving, collecting, or fixing Mercedes, what are your hobbies?

M.H.: I enjoy muzzle loading, black powder shooting.

N.S.: What is your current job?

M.H.: I work for Air Canada as a mechanic.

N.S.: What is your favorite Mercedes?

M.H.: **Any** Mercedes that was built 1915 or prior.

N.S.: Do any of the cars you own have names?

M.H.: Yes. My 1970 600 LWB is named "Grosser;" translated from the German, it means "Grand."

N.S.: What make and model of Mercedes would you **like** to own?

M.H.: A 600 Landalet because it's so rare. In total, there were only 59 built.

N.S.: Other than Mercedes, tell us about some cars you find interesting.

M.H.: Any car built during the "brass era" of production which is pre-1915. It was the last time brass was used in cars.

N.S.: Tell us about a fun road trip you have taken.

M.H.: I have travelled the entire length of Route 66 in my Mercedes 600 LWB and I attended the Starfest in Las Vegas, Nevada where I entered Autocross with it.

N.S.: What is something unusual that has happened to you as a Mercedes owner?

M.H.: It took me two years to find the car I wanted, which was my 1970 600 LWB. It had been garaged for a long time and had 72,000 original miles on it. I thought the car was a great value. The "nightmare" soon began, however, and I ended up rebuilding the whole car: the paint job, the drive shaft, the suspension, and the hydraulic system. The purchase price was the cheapest part of that deal!



Thanks, Mike, for piloting our first in a series of "Profiles" featuring our friends and family in the Niagara Section MBCA.

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- Free classified ads, both local and national
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- Reprints of recent and vintage articles
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PLACE
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