



Nickel City Star

NOVEMBER 4, 2010

FALL 2010

www.mbca.org/niagara

Coming Events: See page 2

Niagara Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

New-Member Welcome Party Hidden Valley Animal Adventure Theme Park



- By Gene Long

This year's New Member Party took the form of a very interesting trip to Hidden Valley, Varysburg NY, only 40 minutes from Buffalo. The park was new to most of us, but is sure to bring us back with family, friends and neighbors, both old and young. Members Judi Laird and Paul Gusmann hosted a safari through woods, fields and farmyards where we not only saw but bonded with wild animals! But first, we arrived and "discovered" a beautiful and spacious resort establishment situated on 60 acres of rolling countryside. It is fresh and new, and environmentally very correct, with a view of a nearby wind turbines in action! A covered bridge and a large lake complemented the scene.

We started off with group photos and then boarded a tractor drawn trolley, armed with a red cup filled with animal food. As we progressed through the park our tour guide pointed out the hundreds of bison, reindeer, water buffalo, emu, ostrich, deer, longhorn steer, and about 50 other species that roam free on the land and in the woods. We were amazed that they would come right up to us and get the food we offered from our cups. It was a fantastic experience, and delighted everyone! I found I had taken over 300 pictures!



After the theme park, we were treated to a shop tour and introduction by Judi and Paul of their business in Varysburg proper. Color coordination, interior design and high quality imported German windows and window treatments were displayed and described. Wine and Judi's homemade Black Forest Cake were served in true German style.

We had a wonderful day together meeting new members and thanks to Judi and Paul, experiencing a local 'hidden' treasure in Hidden Valley. We'll be back for sure!!



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2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **November 14—Sunday, 11 a.m. Go Kart Racing at AJ's Grand Prix, 1888 Niagara Falls Blvd.,** cost is: \$30 per person (for those who will be racing.) This Game & Race package includes: 2 races, 20 arcade game tokens, Pizza – 2 Pizzas (per nine people), and unlimited soda too.
- **November 16—Monthly meeting at Elma Towne Grille, Bowen at Clinton, 6:30 p.m.**
- **December 12—Sunday afternoon, 1 to 4 p.m., Christmas Party at the Old Orchard Inn, East Aurora. A separate mailed invitation is coming soon. Mark the date and plan to be there!**

Please see our website www.mbca.org/niagara for calendar information and details!

These and other events are in the planning stages... watch for future announcements!

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

Or you may call Dave at 716-688-0540 for more information.

Also, check The Star and www.mbca.org for national events listings.

NEWSLETTER NOTE!

This newsletter is available online at our website: www.mbca.org/niagara

In order to ensure that we reach all members, black & white paper copies of this newsletter will be mailed to all members. We are working to decrease mailing costs, so if you have provided the club with an email address, the Nickel City Star link will be delivered electronically. Please feel free to print it out, in full color, and read it at your leisure. If you prefer the electronic version, please email or call Becky Reed (rlinnr@gmail.com or 716-652-4548) and your subscription will be sent by email notice only. Thank you!



I can't say it better than Bill Fix has in his VP's Corner, so stop reading this, see below, then come back. Our events calendar continues to shine and we hope to see you at all of the listed events, and any others that may come up. To all who have given their time and effort to the members by organizing and hosting events this year—THANK YOU!

A lot of Mercedes Club activity is on the way. Check the list on page 2, and be aware that even more events are still in the works. We will notify all members in three ways: this newsletter, our website, and email from time to time. Please make sure we have your email address in our list. If you have not received an email from Dave Doherty in the past month, it means we don't have an accurate address for you. Send changes to Dave Doherty at ddoherty1966@aol.com. Thanks!

Recent events have been very well attended and a lot of fun. Take a look at the articles in this issue, and please take advantage of the items for sale, as well as the products and services offered by our advertisers.

Again, my extreme appreciation and gratitude goes out to officers and members constantly improving the Niagara Section! As always, we are looking for helpers on our committees, so if you have a few moments to help out, please let us know.

VP's Corner— By Bill Fix



Sitting here and looking out of the window at an overcast autumn day I found myself reflecting back on this year's club activities. What a fun year this has been! And that's thanks to all of you who have participated in our activities and events with such great enthusiasm. I personally can't think of a greater joy than driving my Mercedes-Benz to an event or activity where I have the opportunity to meet with others who also enjoy the pride in ownership of these great cars.

While some of our events are repeated each year, many others are developed in an attempt to attract more member involvement. Our basic formula is: meet at a designated starting point (have coffee), caravan along a predetermined route to a destination of interest (historical site, tourist location, tour site or site of unusual interest) and end at a location that offers good food and libation. This, by the way, has proven to be a very successful formula with something for every participant.

This year began with a wine tasting party in January (a great way to kick the year off). In February we celebrated Valentine's Day with brunch at the Roycroft in East Aurora. At the end of the month some of the most dedicated of the group attended the Toronto International Auto Show. After suffering through a cold winter we couldn't wait to get out for a Maple Sugar pancake breakfast in March....this year we went to the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumfords, NY. In April we enjoyed a "tech session" at Harpo's Autobahn Bodywerks where we were introduced to the methods used to restore or repair our Mercedes-Benz when necessary. Then in May we really got in the spirit of driving the winter creaks out of our bones and our cars by heading to Hammondsport, NY to take in the Glenn Curtiss air history museum, and from there to Lodi, NY to taste the wines of the Wagner Vineyards....a round trip of over 5 hours and 59 minutes. June found us celebrating Father's day at the Sonnenberg Gardens annual Father's Day Car Show where we participated in a showing of our Mercedes-Benz cars along with other makers (last year we won a prize too). At the end of June we turned back the clock with an 1800's chuck wagon dinner and trail ride in Salamanca, NY, followed by a visit to the Salamanca Antique Mall (one of the largest in the US). On a beautiful day in July we were found enjoying a great picnic by invitation of the WNY Antique Car Club of Chautauqua, NY. In August we celebrated the "coming aboard" of 20 new members to our club by holding a New Members Picnic in Varysburg, hosted by Judi "Smart Car" Laird and Paul Gusmann, who were new members themselves last year. And of course, September just wouldn't be September without a visit to Spring Garden in Marilla, for the annual Schlachtfest (traditional German food, beer, music and gemütlichkeit).....and for the more adventurous among us – participation in the national club event, StarFest, this year in Winchester, Virginia. To round out the year we are offering Grand Prix go-kart racing in November and our annual Holiday Party in December....to be held at the Old Orchard Inn in East Aurora.

We are looking forward to next year and planning new and interesting events and activities. Your club will provide you even greater opportunities to enjoy both your cars and the friendship and camaraderie that comes from being a member of this organization. With greater participation from each of you we will all benefit from new ideas and suggestions that will translate into more FUN.

We're looking forward to seeing more of you, more often. Come on out and join the fun....you'll really be glad you did.

Schachtfest 2010

by Bill Fix



The sky was overcast and it had drizzled overnight so as the day dawned it looked a little ominous, maybe not the kind of day you wanted to venture out in to attend the annual Schlachtfest in the spring gardens in Marilla.

Still, the thought of traditional German food and beer served up amongst good friends, accompanied by the uplifting sound of German music was just too much for some of us to resist. So off we went.

The club attendance was once again sponsored by our good friend and fellow MBC member, Jerry Knapp. Upon our arrival we were scheduled to display our Mercedes-Benz automobiles in a designated area at the lower level of the festival grounds, as usual. Terry and Jerry were the first to arrive and were directed down to the display area where they experienced some slippery conditions that made it clear that we would be better off at the top of the hill or face the possibility of having to be towed up later.

Undeterred, we parked at the top of the hill and walked down to the pavilion where the food and drinks were being served. It was a little chilly and as more people braved the weather and showed up for the event, it got a little crowded and noisy inside the pavilion. Yet we persevered, until the oomph band kicked in. That drove some of us outside to be better able to communicate and further enjoy the camaraderie of our fellows.

The weather cleared up some and the sun even poked out a few weak sun beams. Having eaten our fill of pork dinners, sausages and/or sandwiches washed down with a stein or two of good German beer we were ready to call it a day. While we numbered only 17 members in attendance, we felt the spirits of all of you who were unable to join us. So until next year, PROSIT!



STARFEST 2010 Photos

Congratulations to Art Bourget for taking 2nd Place in his class with his 1989 300SD in the concours d'elegance! Winchester Va.



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

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