



# Nickel City Star

MAY 14, 2008

SUMMER 2008

[www.mbcna.org/niagara](http://www.mbcna.org/niagara)

**Coming Events:** See page 2

## Maple Sugar Event Very Sweet

If we ever needed a reason just to get out and enjoy an early spring day, this was a great one! Forty-two club members caravanned from Williamsville to Westfield (not to mention West Falls) just to taste the delicious maple syrup and pancake breakfast at The Sugar Shack on Route 5. Then we proceeded to taste and purchase some local wines. Many thanks go to Bill Fix for organizing such a wonderful day!

Niagara Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America



They make maple syrup in here!



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## 2008 SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

- **May monthly meeting CANCELED** this year due to club event conflicts.
- **June 7, 2008 - Defensive Driving Instruction and Experience**—This driving event will be a chance to hone your driving skills and to experience the capabilities of your own car from a safety standpoint. Club driving instructors will conduct classroom and actual in-car training. See page 7. *Also, details may follow by email. Please make sure we have your email (send to genelong@verizon.net) or call 873-9226.*
- **June 8—Car shows in Elma, Williamsville — see page 3**
- **June 27—Buffalo Bisons Baseball - Bisons vs. Scranton/WB - 7:35 PM. fridaynightbash!, Post-Game Fireworks Show, Family Campout.** The best night of the week! fridaynightbash! with live music from Roar 84! and \$3 food and drink specials. After the game, enjoy a spectacular pyrotechnics display.
- **July 20—Chautauqua Antique Car Club/Viking Picnic**
- **August 10—Grand Island Lady Excursion**—See page 5 for details
- **September 18, 2008—Monthly dinner meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
- **September 14—Schlachtfest at Spring Garden, with Mercedes car display.**
- **September 20—Oktoberfest Celebration and car show** (Saturday) time not yet established. Memorial Park, Village of Hamburg, corner of Lake St (Camp Rd.) and Union Street. Authentic German food (by Scharf's), wine and beer. We have music by G.A.M.A. Blaskapelle and dancing by S.G.T.V. Edelweiss. Full complement of vendor items (Steins, buttons, etc.) will be available.
- October—to be determined.
- November—to be determined.
- December—Annual Christmas Party

*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](http://www.mbca.org/niagara). Or you may call Ed at 716-873-9226 for more information.*

Check The Star and [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) for national events listings.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GENE LONG



Summertime! And the livin' is easy... but, lots of events are being planned for us to enjoy, listed on page 2. As usual, reminder emails will be sent to the membership before the dates of the events.

Of special note, the June 7th Defensive Driving class, with active participation in your own car, promises to be a highlight of the summer. This event will benefit everyone who drives, even "the other guy". If we can avoid an accident involving the other guy, so will he. Please see the entry information on page 6, and sign up soon. We are lucky to have national instructors from our club Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, to again teach us valuable driving skills. Thanks to Ed Yungbluth for organizing this great event.

Since it is my privilege to write this column, I will give you My Opinion: Fuel prices continue rocketing skyward, with no letup in sight, but our gasoline is still cheaper than in some parts of Europe where fuel now costs over \$8 per (US) gallon. I found a little trick that is helping my mileage noticeably: using fuel that does not contain ethanol. My Mercedes V8 is still getting over 25 MPG on the highway, and over 23 average. It is my opinion that using fuel with 10% ethanol reduces my MPG by about 10%. While ethanol is reducing our dependence on foreign oil by a percentage (probably lower than 10%) and paying US farmers to grow more corn, I have concluded that ethanol is not actually the best fuel. So, I have switched to Kwik-Fill (SuperKwik 93), which I think is the only source in WNY, of fuel refined from Pennsylvania crude oil, and does not have an ethanol component. The price is nearly the same as gas with ethanol (or less in many cases), but using it addresses all the issues—US oil, US labor, and better fuel economy. And, there's a bonus: If you use a Kwik-Fill credit card, the price is discounted 5¢ per gallon. Other tips for better mileage: check your tires often, keep your car in tip-top mechanical shape, and most of all, drive sensibly—and safely! (P.S.— Diesel owners enjoy higher MPG but will likely pay nearly the same as gasoline if measured in cents per mile.)

Our monthly meetings are suspended for the summer as usual but I urge everyone in the club to stay involved, and we will resume regular meetings on September 18. Special thanks to Gary and Fran Baumgartner for organizing the Grand Lady Cruise, Shirley Fischer and Bill Fix for the Bisons Game event, Herb and Shirley Fischer for the Chautauqua and Oktoberfest events too. Thank you all for your support of club activities!

Events

Two car shows to choose from, both on June 8th...

**THE LAKE ERIE REGION OF THE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**

invites you to participate in the  
**56th Annual Car Show  
Flea Market & Car Corral**

**WNY's BEST JUDGED SHOW SINCE 1952**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008**

**Elma Press**

**New Location:**  
**Elma Greens Park, 3007 Bowen Road in Elma, NY**

Special Drawings for Pre-Registered Cars  
**FOUR SPECIAL AWARDS**  
★ BEST 1944 OR OLDER ★  
★ BEST 1945 - 1969 ★  
★ BEST 1970 - 1987 ★  
★ BEST MODIFIED ★

**OVER 65 CLASS awards!**  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Each Class  
• Judging Starts at 12:00 Noon •  
• Special Dash Plaques for First 250 Registered •  
• 4:00 pm – Awarding of Trophies •

• Special Medium and Heavy Duty Truck Classes •  
• Special Pedal Car Display with People's Choice 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards •

**MAC's**  
Antique Auto Parts

**Jim Culligan**  
**AUTO PLACE**

**MADER Construction**

**James Sandoro**  
Vehicle Appraisals

★ **FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE INCLUDING A CHICKEN BARBEQUE** ★  
★ **HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON GROUNDS OPEN WITH SPECIAL ACTIVITIES** ★

**Buffalo Transportation PIERCE Museum**

Contacts:  
Chuck at 716-655-0508 • Ed at 716-549-1810  
Visit Our Website: [www.aaca.org/lakeerie](http://www.aaca.org/lakeerie)

British Car Club  
**EUROCAR DAY 2008**

*Presents...*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 9:00 a.m. TO 3:30 p.m. Rain / Shine**

**At the Rose Garden Restaurant Grove 2753 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, NY**  
( Grove is behind restaurant ) (716) 632-9871 Restaurant

All European Marques Welcome

Awards in all Classes

Popular Vote & Peoples Choice Award

Well Drained Grassy Show Area

Over 130 European Cars shown in 2007

FREE Spectator Admission

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE ALL DAY

Featured Marque PORSCHE

The British Car Club Reserves the Right to Alter Classes

BEST OF SHOW!	H Midget-Chrome	R. British other	Z. European Unrestored
Automobile Classes	I. Jaguar E type	R. Italian (all)	(daily driver, not judged)
A. MG B/C/GT chrome	J. Jaguar other	S. Lotus	European Motorcycles
B. Alfa Romeo	K. Sunbeam (all)	T. Mercedes	AA. BMW
C. MG B/GT rubber	L. Triumph TR2/3/4	U. Porsche 356/911	BB. British
D. Swedish	M. Triumph 250/TR6	V. Porsche other	CC. Classic
E. MG T series, MG A	N. Triumph Spitfire/GT6	W. Volkswagon/ Karm Ghia	
F. Healey/Jensen Healey	O. Triumph TR7/8 & Stag	X. French (all)	
G. Sprite, Midget-Chrome	P. Mini (all)	Y. European other	

DIRECTIONS: NYS Thruway Exit 49, Left (North) onto Rt 78 (Transit Rd.), 6/10 mile Right on Wehrle Dr., 6/10 mile. Right into Rose Garden Restaurant, Grove.

For Information: email <http://clubs.hemmings.com/bccwny>  
Call Dave Kray 633-4586 or George Barbari (716) 694-7386

**Euro Car Day 2008 Registration Form**

Entry Fee **\$10.00** Before June 1 **\$15** after. Payable to British Car Club of WNY  
Mail to: EuroCar Day, David Kray, 30 Belvoir Rd., Williamsville, N.Y. 14221 Info (716) 633-4586

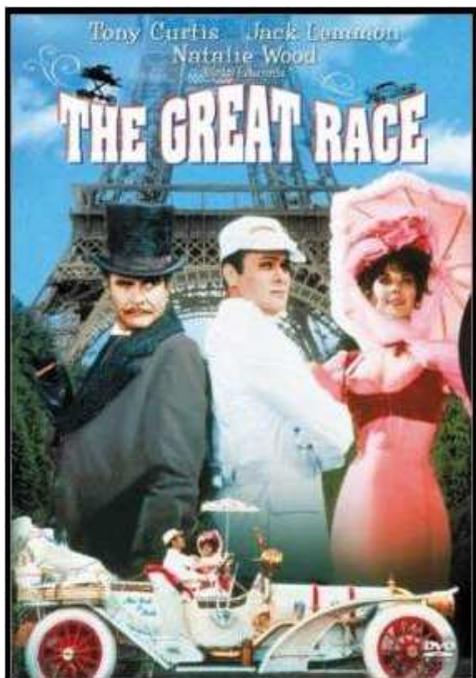
WAIVER OF LIABILITY (Must be signed): Neither I, my heirs nor agents will hold the British Car Club of Western New York, their officers, members or agents liable for any acts or occurrences affecting me, my vehicle or personal property while engaged in, or to or from this event.

Entrant(s) Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Entrant(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address with State/Province and Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Marque \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Affiliation(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
**DISPLAY ONLY; DO NOT JUDGE** Park in Class \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION 9:00 am til NOON AWARDS 3:30 pm (No awards mailed)**

# Gathering of the Clan

By Bill Fix



Faith and begone, 'twas a sight for the eyes. A gathering of the Mercedes-Benz clan at the O'Long homestead in West Falls, County Erie.

There we were, the Mc Fischer's, the O'Baumgartner's, the Mc Fix's, the O'Bourget's, the Mc Doherty's and the Hourigan's (I think that's already Irish) as well as the lasses Becky and Trish.



We'd come together to celebrate the wear'in 'O the green and to watch the 1965 movie, The Great Race, starring Tony Curtis, Natalie Woods, Jack Lemon, Peter Falk and Keenan Wynn.

And what an evening we had. Appetizers galore, popcorn, and of course a pint or two to wash it all down.

Gene and Joanie gave us a tour of their beautiful 1800's farm house, full of technology spanning the 1800's to the present. There was a player piano, a gramophone, treadle sewing machine, flat screen TV's alongside CD's and DVD's to name a few.

In between things, we lads toured Gene's collection of fine auld and new automobiles (some stored for friends). There was everything from Mercedes Benz classics, the Delorean, a beautiful old Packard, a prize winning Volvo and more. What a treat.

Finally, in the wee late hours of the evening as we bide fare thee well and headed home we could hear in the wind this familiar Irish blessing:



Note: The clan names beginning with O' or Mc were honorary for this event.

"May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
And, until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

## Welcome New Niagara Section Members



DUANE ANDERSON  
TERRY COLLESANO  
LES KACHUREK  
MARYANN KWIATOWSKI  
GEOFFREY MCCAULEY  
SANDRA MORRISSEY  
LINDA RICHARDS  
SHAWN SHELTON

And to our current members who have recently renewed, thank you!



**THE GRAND LADY TWO-HOUR Narrated LUNCH CRUISE**

Narrated Cruise: A live commentary by the Captain including points of interest along the route and the dynamics of the Niagara River. The Grand Lady sails the always-calm waters of the Upper Niagara River, from home-port, the Holiday Inn at 100 Whitehaven Rd., Grand Island, NY. Our cruises generally take us upstream from the Holiday Inn in the direction of Lake Erie and the City of Buffalo. Depending on how long we stay out determines how far up steam we travel. Typically a two-hour cruise will get us to "Pirates Island" (Motor Island), three-hour cruise to "The International Train Bridge" and four hours will get us all the way around "Grand Island". All of these cruises include a unique blend of residential, industrial, and parkland areas upon the waters that nourish and en-rich our region.

**WHEN:** August 10, 2008, 12:00pm - 2:00pm (Arrive early so you don't miss the boat!)

**COST:** \$33.00 per person and include applicable tax Reservations and pre-payment by July 1, 2008 required. Lunch entree must be made at time of reservation. Server gratuities are always welcome.

Reserved parking will be available for club members.

**LUNCH MENU**

Fruit Cup, Rolls & Butter

Choice of: Chicken Francese - Boneless breast of chicken sautéed and topped with artichoke hearts and a light lemon sauce—OR- Sliced Beef Roulades - Thin sliced roast beef surrounding bread stuffing and topped with demi-glace.

All lunch entrees are served with Chef's choice of potato & vegetable, dessert, regular/decaf coffee, hot or iced tea. Vegetarian meal available upon request

**Cruise Route & Information:**

All Scheduled cruises sail rain or shine. In cases of severe weather a decision will be made at time of departure. If the Captain decides it is too dangerous to sail, meal is served dockside and guests will receive a voucher equal in value to cruise only portion of trip.

**Grand Lady Lunch Cruise Sign-Up Form—Due by July 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# or email \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \$33 per person. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: MBCA Niagara Section**

Please mail this form with your check by July 1 to: Herb Fischer, 235 High Park Blvd, Amherst 14226

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& collector

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A locally owned and operated establishment, we are dedicated to quality detailing at the most competitive prices, so visit us just off Hyde Park Boulevard. Plenty of free parking!

Contact us for more details.  
2538 Seneca Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
716-297-1410  
[www.niagaracustomplating.com](http://www.niagaracustomplating.com)

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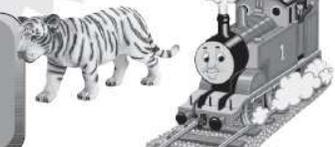
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LAY-AWAY!**



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## 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](mailto:genelong@verizon.net)



**1992 300E** Engine partially rebuilt, runs great. Leather interior is like new. All service records. Excellent winter car. Equipped with 4 snow tires. Asking \$3,500. 716/873-9226 evenings.

### Check out these Web sites:

Mercedes-Benz Club of America  
[www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

Niagara Section  
[www.mbca.org/niagara](http://www.mbca.org/niagara)

Mercedes-Benz of America  
[www.mbusa.com](http://www.mbusa.com)

Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo (advertiser)  
[www.mercedesbenzbflo.com](http://www.mercedesbenzbflo.com)

Niagara Custom Plating (advertiser)  
[www.niagaracustomplating.com](http://www.niagaracustomplating.com)

Niagara Hobby & Craft (advertiser)  
[www.niagarahobby.com](http://www.niagarahobby.com)

### Event

# Defensive Driving

## June 7, 2008 - Defensive Driving Instruction and Experience

This driving event will be a chance to hone your driving skills and to experience the capabilities of your own car from a safety standpoint. Club driving instructors Frank and Mary Alice Cozza will conduct classroom and actual in-car training.

Last held in the Fall of 2005, this was a huge success. 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.

**Where:** ECC North, Building B parking lot

**Who:** Club members, associate members, & guests (over 18 with valid driver licenses)

**Car(s):** Your daily driver, not necessarily a M-B

**Cost:** \$10 per driver, includes box lunch, refreshments

After the driving, we will meet at Buffalo Brew Pub for supper.



## Defensive Driving Instruction Sign-Up Form—Due by May 30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# or email \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \$10 per person. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **MBCA Niagara Section**

Please mail this form with your check by May 30 to: Herb Fischer, 235 High Park Blvd, Amherst 14226

***MBCA Membership Benefits - Please Renew!***

- Six big issues of The Star magazine every year • Companionship with fellow M-B enthusiasts • Locally sponsored events
- Local newsletter • National driving, show, technical and social events • Free classified ads, both local and national
- Free technical advice • Reprints of recent and vintage articles • Club Store online • Raffle - new M-Bs



NIAGARA SECTION  
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Nickel City Star Editor  
8561 Falls Rd.  
West Falls, NY 14170

A photograph of a silver Mercedes-Benz sedan, likely a C-Class, shown from a front-quarter perspective. The car is parked on a reflective surface in a dark, modern setting. In the upper right corner of the image, there is a dark rectangular box containing the Mercedes-Benz logo and the text "Mercedes-Benz".

**Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo**  
8185 Main Street, Williamsville, NY (716) 633-0088 [www.mercedesbenzbfflo.com](http://www.mercedesbenzbfflo.com)