



Nickel City Star

APRIL 27, 2007

SUMMER 2007

www.mbca.org/niagara

Coming Events: See page 2

Niagara Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

AUSELUG II

By Bill Fix

Some of you will remember our adventure to Hamilton, Ontario in 2005. We had taken a scenic drive to Hamilton, shopped at Denninger's and dined at the Black Forest restaurant. We had such a great time that we decided to repeat our adventure this past year. Only this time, we would dine at Zum Linzer, a German and Austrian Restaurant that had been recommended to us. We arranged to meet at the Tim Horton's in Williamsville on November 18th at 9:00 am. (a little early for some of us, but it was meant to be an adventure). Roy and Jeanette Kuck were the first to arrive. Once we were all present and accounted for, we took this opportunity to fuel up on coffee. Some even managed to force down a doughnut or two.

About 10:30, Ed Yungbluth and I ensured that each car was armed with Map Quest directions and we were ready to set off. Because Herb and Shirley Fisher had led our caravan last year, we appointed them caravan leaders once again. We were 5 Mercedes and 12 people strong (Gene and Joanie Long had brought Dave Cummings and Trish Assad-Ketchum along) so we formed our caravan and filed out onto I-190.

As soon as we entered the expressway, Herb's excitement was so great that he unleashed the power of his CDI and immediately zoomed down the thruway at autobahn speed. We didn't see him again until we reached the Lewiston-Queenston bridge going into Canada. This time it was Hilde and I who were the last



to cross into Canada, but the caravan waited patiently for us to catch up. After that, it was a free-for-all as we mingled with the Canadian drivers on the QEW and raced to Hamilton, passing each other as traffic permitted. It kind of reminded me of a friendly road race.

Strangely enough, we all arrived in Denninger's parking lot at just about the same time. Paul and Florence Hourigan, who live in Hamilton joined up with us and became our guides to the restaurant after shopping. Even those of us who had been there before were delighted with the huge selection of imported goodies available for our consumption. Hilde's cart was almost full before we got past the first

aisle. The first-timers were ecstatic and had trouble finding enough room in their carts for everything they wanted to take home. We all caught glimpses of Joanie beaming and throwing "thumbs up" as she filled her cart to the brim. After an hour and a half we had shopped enough to have worked up an appetite. And so, we were off to Zum Linzer.

Here we were joined by our Regional Director and his wife, Doug and Maria Dees. We were now eight couples. Zum Linzer is an older Victorian house that has been refurbished to look like a German/Austrian Gasthaus. The food was nothing less than remarkable. Every couple ordered a different entrée and each looked, smelled and without doubt tasted better than the next. Ed and Beverly shared a Baked Camembert with cranberries appetizer with Hilde and me. Yummy! Dessert was limited to apple strudel, Linzer torte or ice cream, but it was enough. Some of us washed our food down with various German beers or coffee.



Doug topped off the day with a presentation to Gene Long for the best newsletter of our region. After hearty congratulations and with full stomachs and soaring spirits we bade each other goodbye and began our journey homeward.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- **May 17**, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Monthly meeting at the Eagle House, Williamsville
- **June 10 - Euro Car Show** at the Rose Garden, Wherle Drive, join the show or just come and see beautiful European cars of all makes. Info and pre-reg.: 633-4586 or 773-9479.
- **July 14 & 15 - Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix** Vintage racing & Car Shows, Mercedes Benz is the featured marque this year. See The Star for info on StarTrack event.
- **July 15 - Chautauqua Antique Car Club driving event**, car show, and picnic.*
- **July 22 - Jag-Buffalo Car Show** at the Rose Garden, sponsored by the Jaguar Club. MBCA Niagara Section participates
- **August 25, 26 - Jaguar Club car show** in conjunction with Lewiston Jazz Festival.
- August Event - **Buffalo Bisons Baseball Game**, *Details to be announced**
- **September 9 - Schlachtfest** at Spring Garden noon to 10 p.m., Mercedes Benz cars, German food, live music, 457-4003 or www.springgarden.com/

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

**Details 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GENE LONG

Wow, what a trip! We really enjoyed our tour through one of Buffalo's major historical landmarks. If you didn't get the opportunity with the club, you owe it to yourself to take the tour of Shea's Buffalo on your own. Call for info - 716-847-0850. Take in a show at Shea's and dine before or after at 490 Pearl - The Cabaret - great food (salmon a specialty) and superb service, call 716-842-4181. Downtown gets better all the time!

Lots of summer events again this year, and I hope to see M-B Club members at all of them! Take a look at the list above, and mark your calendar. We enjoy not only our own events, but we participate in 'the best of the season' that other clubs are running.

If you would like to know more about anything club-related, give me or one of your officers a call. Lastly, even if you haven't attended before, I urge everyone in the club to put our monthly meetings on your calendar - the Eagle House - 5578 Main, Williamsville - attend, bring a friend!



Technical Inspection Event

Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo treated the Niagara Section to a complimentary technical inspection on April 21, 2007. Members enjoyed free trips under their cars and a professional technician's evaluation. Delicious breakfast baked goods and lunchtime desserts were



prepared by Becky Reed, whom we thank for organizing the entire event! Chef Pierre (Ed Yungbluth) joined her in serving food and drinks. The section provided a catered lunch of hot roast beef sandwiches with all the trimmings. After the 13 cars were inspected and official summary documents issued, each car received a free car wash and interior vacuum. Many of our newest members participated and brought in their beautiful cars, fresh out of winter storage. It was a treat to meet the members and see these cars up close.

Our thanks goes to the management and staff of M-B of Buffalo, especially Mike Hopkins and Bob Lamastra, Larry Benny, Joe Spencer, the wash crew, and the three technicians who worked tirelessly all day, Cary Pengrazio, Jason Sugg, and Brad Bartolomei.



Shea's Buffalo Backstage Tour

March 31, 2007

The tour of Shea's was a wonderful sojourn into a marvelous era in Buffalo's history. Over 25 club members met on a windy cold March morning under the 65 foot tall landmark sign and marquee on Main Street. Soon inside "The Wonder Theater" as its founder named it, we were warmly greeted by our tour guide and we proceeded to learn about the lavishly appointed and painstakingly built theater building. Completed in one year, the cost of construction in 1926 was about \$3 million - it seems we can't build a sidewalk nowadays for that amount. Starting in the grand lobby, with its spiraling staircase, marble columns and walls, beautiful glass eight foot tall chandeliers and rich tapestries, we were awed by its beauty. Shea's was built to be a movie house but easily accommodated vaudeville as well.



We experienced the Musicians' Lounge, now used as a lounge for Patrons, and its hidden view of Michael Shea's office. From that van-



tage point, Mr. Shea was known to estimate the attendance at each show within 5% merely by listening to people entering below his office. Not much later, we found ourselves in the massive balcony, wowed by the sheer size of the auditorium. Then we sat in a box where "the elite came to be seen" enjoying the show. There were multiple shows each day in the early years.

The stage area itself was next, one of the largest in North America, with overhead room over 96 feet high. A hundred different stage devices, curtains, light bars, props, etc., can be suspended and lowered during the shows. The majestic Wurlitzer theater organ has been painstakingly restored and with its built-in percussion and sound effects can still act as the entire soundtrack for a silent film. A separate building adjoining the original theater was built to house three



Patrons' Lounge



On stage

floors of dressing rooms as well as garage space for two entire tractor trailer rigs indoors for the sets. Some shows like the Lion King, need over 30 trucks for their sets!



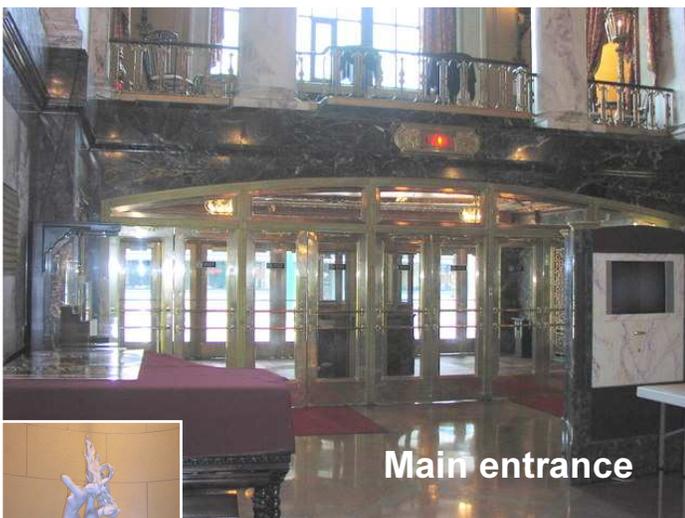
Today, Shea's operates as a full service performing arts center, as restoration of the interior continues. Traveling show troupes prefer Shea's Buffalo because it packs a huge au-

dience of over 3,000 and has such superb accommodations backstage. Truly a marvel and a landmark site and a miracle to behold, everyone should experience Shea's!

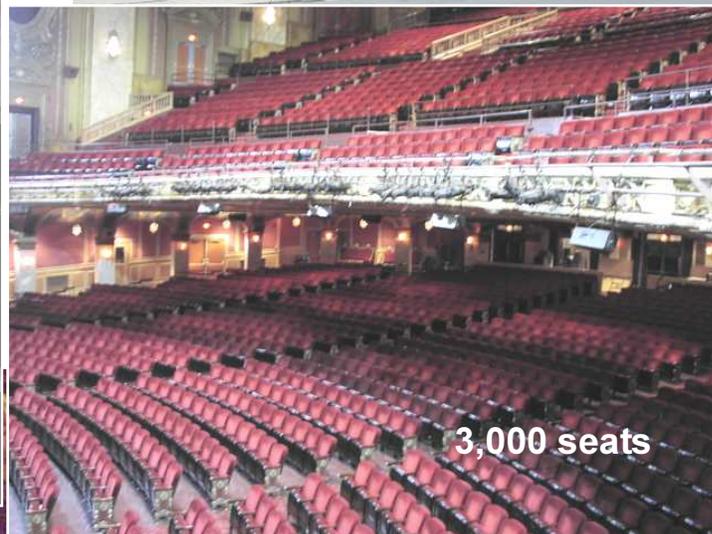
Following our tour, we enjoyed lunch at The Cabaret, a beautifully decorated new establishment just across Pearl Street from the theater. The owners, John and Nadine, had provided free parking and were gracious to open early for the club and served a scrumptious luncheon for our group. If you have a chance, visit The Cabaret, 484 Pearl, for a delightful dining experience with a theatrical flair! For reservations or information, call 716-842-4181.



The Cabaret Restaurant



Main entrance



3,000 seats



Balcony view



Lobby staircase



Notice to club members:

Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo continues to offer a 10% parts discount to current MBCA members.

In order to take advantage of this discount, you must show your active MBCA membership card when purchasing parts or when bringing your vehicle to the service department.

Club members enjoy this benefit, and your participation is appreciated.

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**Welcome New Niagara
Section Members**

Ronald Anzelone, Williamsville

Sara Delena, Williamsville

David Doherty, Williamsville

Anthony Giordano, Clarence

Donald Husted, Mayville

Jack Kuhn, Williamsville

Dean Lamastra, Clarence

Michael McCann, Lakeview

Jonathan Plail, Cheektowaga

Robert N. Richter, Orchard Park

Robert J. Richter, West Seneca

Michael Rotella, Niagara Falls

Robert Rude, E. Amherst

David Schneeweiss, Williamsville

Oscar Tyson, Grand Island

Todd Voelkl, Williamsville

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

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• 25 minutes from Niagara Falls •

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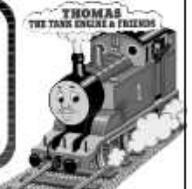
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WHEELS AND DEALS

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

1988 560SL, charcoal gray with gray interior, both tops, no winters, no rust, excellent condition, 117K miles. \$14,000. 836-0511 or ifischer@buffalo.edu.



2000 E320 Sedan, Desert Silver with Java Full Leather, Rain Sensing Wipers, Glass Sunroof, Bose Premium Sound System, 14,000 Miles, No Winters, Non-Smoking Car, No Body Damage, Starmark Extended Warranty until June 28, 2008. Asking NADA High Retail - \$16,000. Contact Kathey or Mike Lofstedt at 585-964-3045 Weekday Evenings from 6 pm to 9 pm or Weekends Anytime.

Set of four Ronal wheels, 16", like AMG, 5 spoke. Fit on E type (prior to 2003), + many others. Perfect, no winters. Tires are Michelin X-One 225-55R16H with 1/3 tread depth. \$400 firm. More pics available. Email genelong@verizon.net or call 716-652-8552.



1995 E320 Cabriolet, 102K miles, Brilliant Emerald green, Crème beige leather, Black top, Florida car, \$25.9K obo. R.O. Kuck 716/549-1590, rojck67@msn.com



W113 parts, chrome, grille, bumpers, trim in & out, gauges, etc. R.O. Kuck 716/549-1590, rojck67@msn.com

Framed picture, M-B racing history, brushed silver/pewter frame with glass, 24 1/4 x 17 3/4. Asking \$75 or b.o. mainsail2@verizon.net



WHEELS AND DEALS

(Continued)

Wheels: (All items below) R.O. Kuck 716/549-1590, rojck67@msn.com

- Four 8-hole polished OEM alloy wheels with like-new Continental CH95's mounted & balanced from W124 E320. \$575
- Four 6 1/2 J 15 H2 15" Steel wheels MB part #124 400 1002 with Dunlop 195-65R15 91H SP Winter Sport M3 M+S tires mounted. \$200
- Five Michelin xzx 185-80x14 like-new tires mounted on old-style MB alloys. Great for W113 cars. \$500

Check out these Web sites:

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
www.mbca.org

Niagara Section
www.mbca.org/niagara

Mercedes-Benz of America
www.mbusa.com
Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo (advertiser)
www.mercedesbenzbflo.com
Niagara Hobby & Craft (advertiser)
www.niagarahobby.com



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- 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
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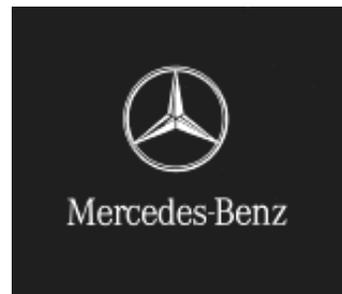
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Coming late summer: New C-Class!