



# Nickel City Star

Winter 2005

## Holiday Party December 11<sup>th</sup>

See Page 5

Niagara Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

## October Wine Tasting in West Falls

A hardy group of 24 wine enthusiasts braved gusty winds and heavy rain-fall to attend our professionally instructed wine tasting party in West Falls. Our hosts, Gene and Joanie Long enlisted the help of Dwight Kreiger, wine enthusiast and owner of Aurora Liquors, located in the East Aurora Plaza, for an afternoon of sampling and tasting. We welcomed guests from Byron, NY and Eric Goodrich, who had traveled all the way from the Cincinnati (Ohio) Section to join us. We were honored to meet and greet several new members of the Niagara section as well.



Dwight gave us a short summary of the wines he brought for us and reviewed them in terms of price and overall quality, saying that because each of us has different tastes, we may or may not rank the wines the way he did. (Which is why we have wine tasting parties in the first place!) Because Germany did not export many quality vintages of red wine this year, Dwight presented five German white wines and a single red from Argentina. We sampled and tasted, cleansed palets with crackers, cheeses, and delicious hors d'oeuvres, then sampled and tasted some more. As predicted by Dwight, we each had one or two favorites by the end of the afternoon!



### President's Message

By Gene Long

In this issue of the Nickel City Star, we look back on a great Fall 2005 season, and highlight what's on tap for winter. Look inside for information on events.

As you know, our section recently held its bi-annual election and, unopposed, all officers remained in place except secretary. We welcome Rebecca Reed to our hard working officer team. Becky has worked hard to boost our membership and always presents a positive and bright image of our club.

Outgoing secretary Shirley Fischer has done outstanding work as secretary since the inception of the Niagara Section in late 1999. She and husband Herb established the Bylaws, Constitution, and many other policy records which were necessary to get us started. Shirley also served as our award-winning newsletter editor. Thanks for your dedication, Shirley!

A major topic that remains is the membership tally, a club-wide issue. The good news is we have seen the Niagara Section numbers rise a bit thanks to your efforts. Please continue maintaining high levels of personal involvement with other members. Enjoy our club, and get another M-B enthusiast to join us! Don't forget, when you finish with it, pass this newsletter to a prospect along with an application, to jog their memory. Remember, R & R = Renew and Recruit!

Please take a look at this issue's calendar of events column, your copy of The Star magazine, and check our local website to see what events might interest you. If you would like to know more about anything you find, 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 - which resume at 6:30 p.m. on January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Eagle House 5578 Main, Williamsville - attend, bring a friend!



## Niagara Section Officers

President  
Gene Long  
8561 Falls Rd., West Falls, NY 14170  
716-652-8552  
genelong@verizon.net

Vice President  
Ed Yungbluth  
349 Argonne Dr., Kenmore, NY 14217  
716-873-9226  
yungbluth@adelphia.net

Treasurer  
Herb Fischer  
235 High Park Blvd, Amherst 14226  
716-836-0511  
bayernguy@yahoo.com

Secretary  
Rebecca Reed  
1570 Rice Road, Elma NY 14059  
716-652-4548  
reed\_williamsville@mbretailer.com

Newsletter Team  
Joanie Long, Becky Reed, Ed  
Yungbluth,  
Gene Long, Jim Norris

Northeast Regional Director  
Doug Dees  
25 Birchcroft Rd., Etobicoke Ontario  
M9A2L5 Canada  
416-233-6599  
dees\_froelich@sympatico.ca

## News and Notes

2006 Niagara Section Election of Officers: An election was held in September at our monthly meeting. President, Vice President and Treasurer were re-elected. A new secretary was elected.

2005 Holiday Party: Planned for December 11 at Salvatore's, we anticipate our traditional dinner party will be another huge success. If you have some time to spare and would like to assist in the organizing effort, please contact event coordinator Ed Yungbluth soon. He can be reached at 716-873-9226.

MBCA Commemorative 50th Anniversary Edition History and Pictorial: Order your own copy(ies) from Turner Publishing at 800-788-3350 or online at [www.turnerpublishing.com](http://www.turnerpublishing.com).

MBCA Club Store: Looking for a gift for a favorite person (or car) in your life? Support the club by purchasing fine merchandise at the club's store. Go online at [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) and shop to your heart's content.

The Club Store has ordered new and exciting items celebrating our Club's 50th Year Anniversary. Some of the items are: 50th Anniversary Grill Badge, 50th Anniversary Club Patch, 50th Anniversary Coffee Mugs, and a 50th Anniversary 5 piece desk set, which includes a Key Fob, Money Clip, Business Card Holder, and 2 Pens. Club Store items make great gifts for the holidays! In November, look for Holiday flyers providing a 10% discount to new members, renewing members, and individuals purchasing items from our store.

Membership: We have several new members! But we are always in need of more members, as well as renewals. Please contact anyone you know who has interest in Mercedes-Benz whether they own one or not, and ask them to join - or rejoin. We appreciate any and all efforts to bolster our membership levels!

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)

Remember... R & R!  
Renew your subscription!  
Recruit a new member!

# Defensive Driving 2005

A short course in saving your own life!

This event, open to all MBCA members and associate members, was held on October 8th, a windy and cold day (but we said "rain or shine!"). Erie Community College provided the location as a courtesy, and although we had our new club canopy erected, we were very glad to have a warm building to use as well.

Nationally known instructors from MBCA, Frank and Mary Alice Cozza led club participants in a fantastic half-day defensive driving school. Designed to teach accident avoidance by adopting proper driving habits before and after leaving the driveway, we first became students in classroom-type instruction. For example, Frank and Mary Alice told us about the simple yet effective methods of setting mirrors and seat position to maximize visibility outside the car. Most people tend to set mirrors so they can see the side of their car. But that is not the thing to watch for, because fenders always stay in the same place. We were told to lean our heads almost to the driver's window, then adjust the mirror so that you can just barely see the car. That gives great peripheral vision, eliminating the 'blind spot' as well as keeping overtaking cars' headlights from glaring as they pass.



Other important points were:

"Where you look is where you steer," so don't look at an obstacle, instead look for a path around it.

"Look ahead" to the next turn, not the one you are already committed to.

"Brake, Release, then Turn." You can't ask your tires to do two things at once!

Then came the actual driving exercises. Using our everyday vehicles, Mercedes Benz or not, we proceeded to venture out to a large safe parking lot where the Cozza's had brought cones and arranged them into several "stations." The stations were set up for a slalom, then a straight line ABS braking test, then an impulsive obstacle avoidance maneuver, and finally a brake/release/turn exercise. Instructors accompanied each driver on the course, reviewing and critiquing until we felt comfortable with the driving.



Ample and delicious box lunches were graciously provided by our sponsor, Mercedes Benz of Buffalo. While enjoying lunch in the warmth of the building, we reviewed what we had learned so far. Most drivers expressed their excitement that they actually were able to experience these events. Many said they had learned not to be afraid of their car in emergencies and they were glad to know that they had a way to avoid accidents.



Following the review, Frank and Mary Alice restructured the driving stations for more practice. They laid out a mini-autocross and took us around it on foot to describe the proper driving techniques to safely and deftly negotiate the gates and turns. This non-competitive driving exercise proved to be very instructive, and driving the course was uplifting for all who participated.

We finished up the day with chicken wings and burgers at a local Buffalo landmark establishment and continued to revel in the day's accomplishments. Certificates which may lower insurance cost, depending on the insurance company, were given to all drivers. It is hoped that we can repeat this event next year, and have even more safe drivers as a result!

Thanks again to Frank and Mary Alice Cozza for traveling and instructing us, to our sponsor Mercedes Benz of Buffalo, and to our volunteer club members, headed by Ed Yungbluth who worked so hard make this day a huge success.



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## MBCA 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIPS TO GERMANY

Celebrate the Club's golden anniversary with a very special event. The Club is working with DCAG and Mercedes-Benz officials in Stuttgart to offer special MBCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trips to Germany. These trips will feature unique, behind the scenes guided tours of DCAG facilities including the New Mercedes-Benz Museum opening in May 2006 as well as the new Mercedes-Benz Center Stuttgart.

Comprehensive guided tours of the AMG facility and the Classic Center in Fellbach, along with visits to Daimler's birthplace and workshop are included. Guided tours of the Sindelfingen facility and delivery center and the Unterturkheim factory, including the test facility and perhaps even the Maybach Center of Excellence, will be featured. A visit to DCAG corporate headquarters is also planned. These special guided tours are being arranged by DCAG especially for MBCA members and are not available to the public. A visit to the Technical Museum Sinsheim is also contemplated. After four days of intensive Mercedes-Benz tours, members will be free to relax and enjoy Stuttgart on their own after breakfast on Saturday. The MBCA Anniversary Trip concludes with a grand finale dinner Saturday evening.

The MBCA trips start on Monday evening with dinner at our Stuttgart hotel and conclude with the Saturday dinner. Six nights lodging at a five-star hotel in Stuttgart, six breakfasts, six dinners and four lunches are included. Ground transportation and all admissions are also included.

The currently scheduled dates for these tours are July 24, August 14, September 18, October 9, and November 13, 2006. The September trip is the same time as the Route 66 tour, but members wishing to tour Route 66 may choose another Germany trip date. The September 18 date gives participants the opportunity to visit Munich's Oktoberfest on their own before or after the trip.

These once in a lifetime trips will never be forgotten. The contemplated trip price is \$2500 per person, subject to change. Members will be responsible for their own airfare and personal expenses. Since there is a maximum of 30 members per trip, please contact Jim O'Sullivan as soon as possible to indicate your interest and reserve a spot on a particular trip. He may be reached at [jimo@attglobal.net](mailto:jimo@attglobal.net) or (919) 401-9861.



## Niagara Section Calendar

Clip this out and attach to your own calendar or mark the events!

- January 19 - Monthly meeting - 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, resuming again at the Eagle House, 5578 Main Street, Williamsville NY
- December 11 - Annual Holiday Party, Sunday afternoon 1-5 p.m. at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant, details on page 5.
- February 12, 2006 - Valentine's Brunch at the Roycroft Inn\* Annual event in East Aurora. Starts at noon.
- February 17-26 - Canadian International Auto Show, Toronto\* A Saturday field trip annually to enjoy this, the closest international 'big' show. Mercedes-Benz always has a great display, with hospitality for M-B owners. Also, a dinner stop during the return trip to talk about the great cars.

\*Details will appear in future issues of this newsletter or sent via mail or 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

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## Wheels and Deals

WANTED TO BUY: 300 SDL or 350 SDL, gray or black (black preferred). Must be in excellent condition. Call 716-873-9226 and leave message or email photos and information to: yungbluth@adelphia.net

1983 300D Turbo Diesel: Well maintained willow green, auto., with sunroof, power windows, a.c., dark green leather, removable cassette/stereo radio (original Becker available), woodgrain paneling, coco floor mats, more. Garaged winters, custom cover. All maintenance records. 146K \$5,000. 716-753-3764 (Mary)

1980 450 SL, a Georgia car which has absolutely no rust. Green teal exterior/tan leather interior, V8 rebuilt engine, and body is restored with fresh paint. Only 93,000 original miles and 1,000 miles on the rebuilt engine. For more information, please call Zeki at (716) 481-2301 or write to zena.int@adelphia.net for photo album.



2001 SLK230 Supercharged, 190 HP 4 cyl, 6-speed manual shift, power retractable hardtop. Only 11,000 miles. Magma Red (paint code 586) with Sienna Beige/Charcoal interior and machined aluminum inserts. Power windows, adjustable heated seats, A/C, CD Changer, ESP, ABS, BAS systems, factory countoured lower body panels. Specially ordered, never driven in bad weather, stored winters, all records kept. As close to new as possible. Used only for pleasure and M-B Club events. Reduced for off-season \$24,995. Call 716-652-8552 or email genelong@verizon.net.



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

Welcome New  
Niagara Section Members!

Michael Repko, Elma  
Patricia Assad-Ketcham, E. Aurora  
Alan Voos, Amherst



## Holiday Party

December 11, 2005  
1 to 5 p.m.

**Salvatore's Italian Gardens**  
Transit Road, Depew, Just south of Thruway Exit 49

Open Bar, Excellent Food, Holiday Merriment

Please bring a new unwrapped toy as our charitable gift to the children at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy in Buffalo.

Please call 873-9226 before Nov. 30 for reservations and information

2006 C-Class



2006 ML-Class



Mercedes-Benz

## Winter Event!

Special Lease Incentives on many models. Call or come in for details.  
(Ends Jan 3, 2006)

### Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo

8185 Main Street, Williamsville, NY  
(716) 633-0088  
[www.mercedesbenzbflo.com](http://www.mercedesbenzbflo.com)

### 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



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HERE

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OF AMERICA, INC.

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