



Nickel City Star

November 6, 2006

Winter 2006

Niagara Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Upcoming Events:

November 18 - Shopping and Lunch in Hamilton Ontario

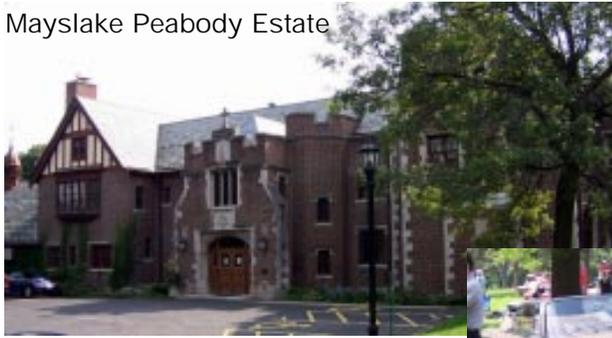
December 10 - Holiday Party at Salvatore's

February 11 - Valentine's Brunch

See Calendar on Page 6 for complete listing of events

Chicagoland Section's 50th Anniversary Celebration & Route 66 Kickoff Oakbrook IL, September 15 - 17, 2006

Mayslake Peabody Estate



McLaren SLR Open for inspection



1896 Benz Velo



Best of Show - 240D



Best in Class - 300SD



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Art Bourget
Niagara Section

Niagara Section Officers

<p>President Gene Long 8561 Falls Rd., West Falls, NY 14170 716-652-8552 genelong@verizon.net</p> <p>Vice President Ed Yungbluth 349 Argonne Dr., Kenmore, NY 14217 716-873-9226 yungbluth@adelphia.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Herb Fischer 235 High Park Blvd, Amherst 14226 716-836-0511 bayernguy@yahoo.com</p> <p>Secretary Rebecca Reed 1570 Rice Road, Elma NY 14059 716-652-4548 rlinnr@verizon.net</p>	<p>Newsletter Team Joanie Long, Ed Yungbluth, Jim Norris, Editor: Gene Long</p> <p>Northeast Regional Director Doug Dees 25 Birchcroft Rd., Etobicoke Ontario M9A2L5 Canada 416-233-6599</p>
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National Business Office News and Notes

2006 MBCA Election – The four Director At Large candidates earning the most votes begin two-year terms at the November national board meeting, joining four incumbent directors. At that meeting the board elects a national president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer from among the eight directors.

Winner's name and # of votes: George Murphy 1,582; Jim O'Sullivan 1,508; Chuck Landenberger 1,447; Roy Kuck 1,166; Dee Ogilvy 843.

Regional Directors: Great Lakes Region, Frank Cozza, 126; South Central Region, Charles Boyd, 126; Mid-Atlantic Region, Greg Magnus, 370; Southeast Region, Scott Suits 182; Jackie Manson 138; Southwest Region, Steve Ross 250.

ByLaws: Approve, 1,645; Disapprove, 233

News Flash!

Southern Treffen 2007 Announced

MBCA's first National Event of 2007, will be hosted by the Tampa Bay Section in Lakeland Florida.

Events will include Time Trials on the road course at U.S.A. International Speedway, Acceleration Runs at Lakeland Dragstrip, Autocross, Defensive Driving, Concours D'Elegance, Rally, banquets, tours and local attractions, and more. Near Disney World, Epcot Center, MGM Studios, Universal Studios and Sea World.

CONTACT: Scott Suits (727) 460-5739 or suits@ij.net for further information.

President's Message

By Gene Long

This issue of the Nickel City Star will give you a summary of our local members' participation in the club's 50th anniversary events. Several of us trekked to Chicago for the celebration, car show and banquet which kicked off the Route 66 trip. Photos of the fantastic cars appear on these pages. Some of us had to come right home but others continued on the trip as far as Oklahoma and gave us a wonderful report, which you will enjoy.

With the nasty October Surprise snowstorm on Friday the 13th, it's no wonder we had to cancel our excursion to Letchworth State Park and lunch at the Glen Iris Inn. Hopefully we will be able to hold that event next fall and enjoy a fun rallye through our local beautiful Western New York area. Looking forward to this season, we are planning a couple of great events - a trip to Hamilton Ontario November 18 for shopping at the famous Deninger's and lunch at Zumlinzerhof, and our annual Holiday Party on December 10 at Salvatore's. Also, the annual Valentine's Brunch is slated for February 11, 2007.

Please return your reservation form and payment by November 28 for the Holiday party... see page 3.

As you will remember, last issue included webmaster Art Bourget's crossword puzzle. The answer appears on page 3 of this newsletter. Thanks Art, and we hope to see another puzzle in the near future. Members, please stay tuned in to our website for information, news and photos.

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!



50th Anniversary Celebration

Quilt Raffle Winners

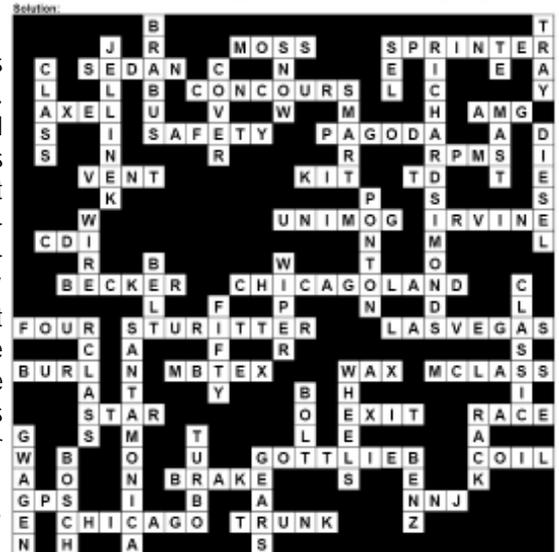
50th Anniversary Crossword

MBCA - Niagara Section www.mbca.org/niagara



MBCA's 50th Anniversary quilt, "Roads Well Traveled" was raffled off at Starfest '06. The 45x56" quilt, which uses a traditional pattern but non-traditional fabrics, shows overlapping wheels moving from lower left to upper right; and colors shifting from darkest night through bright day then into sunset. Blue Mercedes stars shine, and "roads" can be seen. The stars, within large heart shapes, indicate the members' love of the marque. The quilt top was made by Arlene Murphy, Smoky Mountain Section, and its back was designed by Jeanette Kuck, Finger Lakes Section, and quilted by Arlene.

The proud winners were Gene and Joanie Long, of our own Niagara Section. Jeanette and Roy Kuck presented the quilt at the Section's October meeting.



Holiday Party

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

Transit Road, Depew, Just south of Thruway Exit 49

December 10, 2006 1 to 5 p.m.

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.

Detach and return this form with your check:



MBCA Niagara Section 2006 Holiday Party Reservation Form



Member Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Note: Member and one guest are \$30 each, additional guests are \$35 each.
 Prime Rib Chicken Fresh Penne Pasta
 # ___ of Beef # ___ Wellington # ___ Salmon # ___ a la Roma

Total dinners _____ @ \$30 each (up to 2) = \$ _____

Dinners _____ @ \$35 each (3rd and over) = \$ _____

Please write check to "Niagara Section MBCA" Total \$ _____

Mail check to arrive by Nov 28th to:

Edward Yungbluth, 349 Argonne Dr., Kenmore, NY 14217
 Call Ed at 716-873-9226 or email yungbluth@adelphia.net with questions.

Getting Our Kicks On ...

By Ed Yungbluth

As the old song goes...."get your kicks on Route 66"... and this we did. After the 50th birthday celebration in Chicago, my fellow M-B racing enthusiast, Eric, and I set out to travel Route 66 – the "Mother Road" in his 1993 300E. With nearly 100 other Mercedes of vintages from the 50s, 60s, and right through to the most recent, we traveled 100 to 300 miles per day. Each night we stopped at a predetermined city where reservations for hotels and dining had been made months in advance. And each time our host would be another MBCA section which would roll out the red carpet and make us feel so welcome.



Once we were out of the metropolitan Chicago area, we were amazed to find that the original Route 66 road was very much intact. Considering that the third and final parts of Rte. 66 were built just after WWII, the surface remains in excellent condition. Of course, the actual roadbed is only two lanes wide and lacks the modern day markings.



The countryside in mid and southern Illinois is very flat and cornfields stretched as far as the eye could see. In some areas there were more cell phone towers than homes!

Springfield, IL was our first night's stop and is the final resting place for Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln memorial was very imposing and an impressive tribute to such a great man.

Our second day found us in southern Illinois about to cross the Mississippi River, but not by car. We paid a visit to the Chain of Rocks Bridge which no longer is used by autos, but by walkers and bicyclists. Yup! We walked across the mighty Mississippi from Illinois to

Missouri and back again. Mid way across we could see the skyline of St. Louis and the famous arch. Phew! Did we ever work up an appetite for dinner that night! We had dinner at, and a tour of, the Kemp Auto Museum, a privately owned collection of primarily M-B autos dating from a pristine model 500K to more "modern" Mercedes. The restoration shop was open to us as well.



In some states, such as Missouri, long stretches of the Mother Road have been removed in favor of the Interstate system. Such was the case on our third day traveling from St. Louis to Springfield, MO. As we sped along I-44 we could see short stretches of Rte. 66 road and then it would disappear only to reappear on the other side of the highway. And so I-44 led us into Springfield – a very delightful

city with much to see, not the least of which was the Springfield micro brewery where we had a delicious buffet dinner with in-house libations to quaff.



The next morning I noted that there was a Bass Pro shop in town and I just had to see what that was all about. Oh my gosh! It was as big as our Galleria Mall! Besides all the boats in the 40,000 sq. ft. show room, and clothing and accessories for every sport imaginable, there was a 64,000 gallon aquarium, ducks flying around and even a 4 story waterfall! At the check out, a cashier (from Erie, PA, no less) explained that this was the granddaddy of all their stores. It wouldn't have been difficult to get lost in there.

So that day we continued on through Missouri, a 13 mile stretch of Kansas and into Oklahoma where we stayed in Tulsa, deep into the Ozarks. As we entered into Oklahoma, Eric turned to me and said "Well, Ed, you're not in Kansas anymore!" (Apologies to Dorothy and Toto.)

From Tulsa, on our fifth day, we drove the short 125 miles to Oklahoma City. Again, most of the way we could travel on Route 66 proper. One of the "mandatory" stops was the town of Stroud. We pulled up to the Rock Café and noted the plywood likenesses of some of the cars from the Pixar movie CARS. Hmmmm.... We went to the gift shop next door and purchased some Rte. 66 souvenirs. I noticed

more items representing the movie characters as well. Having purchased some of each, I approached the cash register. The lady asked if I had seen the movie and I replied that I had, along with some friends. I proceeded to tell her how much both the adults and children enjoyed the story and the animation. To which she replied, "I'm so glad to hear that. Please tell your friends that you met the person who was the inspiration for Sally, the blue Porsche!"



(For those who haven't seen the movie, it is based heavily on Route 66.)

That evening we were treated to a terrific barbeque dinner at the Western Heritage and National Cowboy Museum after which we were taken on a tour of this immense place. There were innumerable paintings, a huge display of antique firearms, saddles of all sorts (one on loan from a doctor in Amherst), authentic Native American clothing, and even a reproduction of a small western town. It was an excellent depiction of life in the West during the 1800's.



On the sixth day, the caravan left for Texas and parts further west, but we had to part company and head back east towards home. We did manage to stop in downtown OK City to pay our respects at the Oklahoma City National Memorial – site of the former Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. This memorial takes up two city blocks and is divided into several symbolic areas. The Field of Empty Chairs is a reminder of the 168 people who were killed on April 19, 1995. The Reflecting Pool, symbolizes



the street between the former building and the Rescuers' Orchard containing the Survivor Tree – the only one to survive the horrific blast. The Gates of Time, one for 9:01 and one for 9:03 represent the time of innocence and the time after the 9:02 blast when everything was changed forever. This is a most solemn and fitting memorial.

Eric and I breezed through Arkansas and into Memphis, Tennessee where we settled down for the night, but not without having a great dinner of ribs, both "dry" and "wet", at Neely's, one of the famous rib joints there. Before departing Memphis the next morning, we did go up Elvis Presley Boulevard and caught a glimpse of Graceland. Didn't see no Hound Dogs either!

Onwards we went in driving rains through Nashville, Louisville and back to Eric's home of Cincinnati. From there I reluctantly headed back to Buffalo having driven more than 3,300 miles in 15 days.



We all owe a huge THANK YOU to our former MBCA President, Richard Simonds and his lovely wife Laura for the whole idea of celebrating and planning the Club's 50th Anniversary by traveling the historic road. Also, we greatly appreciated the M-B Classic Center in Irvine, CA allowing Jeff Cote, mechanic extraordinaire, to follow us in a well equipped R Class. Jeff's expertise came in handy many, many times and without whose repairs some vehicles would have had to turn back.

And now, I can truly say, that we did indeed "get our kicks on Route 66".

Route 66 Final Group Photo

Santa Monica Beach, 9/29/06



Niagara Section Calendar

- Monthly meetings - 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (except December, June, July and August) next meeting November 16, attractions and details to be announced.
- November 18 - Excursion to Hamilton Ontario. Meet at Tim Horton's (Main Street just east of I-290) at 9 a.m. We will caravan to Deninger's and have lunch at Zumlinzerhof restaurant at 2 p.m. Order off the menu and pay on individual checks..
- December 10 - Holiday/Christmas Party (and Awards Ceremony) at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Detailed information on page 3 - please reserve your place(s) for Sunday afternoon for a great party amid the festive holiday decorations.
- February 11, 2007 - Valentine's Brunch at the Historic Roycroft Inn, East Aurora - Noon.

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

Welcome!

New Niagara Section Members

James Faso, Lewiston, Jashbai and Tara Patel, Amherst, William Scott, Buffalo

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