



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE SUMMER 2024

Kentucky Derby 2024

-by Mike D'Ambrosio

Eighteen members of the Niagara Section enjoyed a sunny and mild Kentucky Derby day on May 4 by joining in with a large crowd at the Buffalo Raceway to enjoy pre-race games, gambling and a very generous buffet lunch. Club members occupied two large tables and, thanks to games of chance designed by member



Christie Fix, tested their knowledge and luck to win some nice prizes. Melanie Smith won a painting of a horse and a set of bourbon glasses; Mike Smith won \$10; Marlene Gaffney and Melanie Smith each won \$25 by spinning the wheel for the exacta win; Christine Westenfield won a bottle of Riesling; and Christie Fix hit the jackpot by winning a bottle of gin and one hundred dollars from the Buffalo Racetrack. Paul Murphy won a nice little pot of money through his bets on the Kentucky Derby horse-race.

Thus a few lucky people provided fun and laughs for many Niagara Section members who needed only a perfectly enjoyable day to feel lucky.



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(No inference should be made that the goods and services advertised have the endorsement of the Niagara Section or MBCA.)

Check out our website:

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America"**



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*The MBCA Niagara Section has its own Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, please click on "like" and "follow" for our page. If you do, then you will receive notices of events and photos that are posted. To find our page, search: **Mercedes-Benz Club of America-Niagara Section**.*

You might also want to check out Niagara Section on the National MBCA website. This is not a Facebook page but it is available to anyone on the internet. Besides the National club information, our section will have activities listed and brief descriptions of the results of the events.

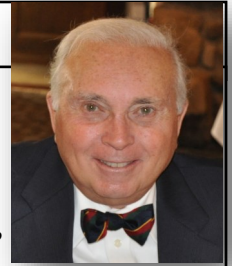
2024 EVENTS CALENDAR - PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE

Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 719-633-6427 or email info@mbca.org

mbca.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike D'Ambrosio



Our Niagara Section has kicked off the spring-into-summer season with events that many of our members found delightful: the luncheon at the Spring Hill Winery and Kentucky Derby Day at the Buffalo Race Track received high praise, and the quality of these events is owed to all the volunteers who help to make our Section one of the most vibrant in the country. Although the Niagara Section was not announced as Section of the Year (SOTY) at the MBCA Board's annual meeting in May, we know that our members make it a Section that offers a lot more than just the Star magazine as the reason people want to continue their association with the club. We have plenty of social gatherings, but being an automobile club, we also offer the means for members to understand the mechanical (and electronic) functioning of their cars, as well as the knowledge to effect repairs, both simple and complex, by some of the members who offer their expertise and assis-

tance to those who wish to partake. In that vein, we encourage participation during the summer months in cruise night events and car shows, and especially, the monthly Benz & Coffee gatherings at V-P Jeff Gaffney's Lockmaster garage, where participating members' knowledge about automobile problems and their repairs can be useful to anyone who needs assistance. So, if you have been sitting on the sidelines as a member of the Niagara Section but are looking to liven up your summer, check out the list of upcoming events, and if you really want to achieve self-actualization, become a member who volunteers to help out in any way you wish, and perhaps take a part in pushing the Section over the top when next years SOTY award is decided. In whatever way you choose, enjoy the summer!

Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer

Niagara Section is the Featured Display June 10

Monday June 10, Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer, 908 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda 14075, 3:30 PM 'til dark.

Don't Miss It!

Our Niagara Section is again the featured marque with preferred display parking at the central fountain.

Cruise nights are for cruising in and out, so you can arrive any time after 3 PM and stay as long as you wish. The club will have the preferred parking location around the fountain near the main building for our Mercedes-Benzes, and we will have our club canopy set up to serve as a gathering place and to recruit new members.

Of course, there will be places to buy refreshments and Platter's Chocolates in the Wurlitzer building. You can bring a chair, food and drinks if you wish, and/or just wander the field of cars. You will be amazed at the variety and quality of the cars.

Last year was a blast, and we are expecting the same for this year! See you there.



Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 719-633-6427 or email info@mbca.org

mbca.org

Member News

The new MBCA website is HERE!

If you have not already visited and established your new MBCA member account, please do so now.

- Every member should have received an email on March 13, inviting you to establish your account and a new password.
- What if you didn't get that email or put the email in your trash? Simply go to **mbca.org** and click on **Register** and proceed with your email address. Disregard the suggestion of using your phone number instead. (If you get a message that your email address already exists, then click on **Login**, and then click on the **Forgot Password** link to set your password.) Agree to the terms by checking the box. Click on **Continue**. Create a Password: minimum of 8 letters including one uppercase, one lowercase, one number, and one special character.
- Once logged into the website: then click on **Create Account**, and fill in the boxes.
- Click on **PROFILE**, complete your profile, (if you are comfortable with it, tell us more about your interests and the cars in your garage.) You don't have to join LinkedIn, X, etc., unless you want to.
- When finished filling in the form, click **Create Account**.
- Now that you are "in", click on **GO to My Glue Home** to explore "Your Chapter Community", interact with your Chapter Community, stay informed with upcoming Events.
- Explore the Mercedes-Benz Club of America on the website. Switch "organizations" by clicking on the **blue circle with your initials**, then **Switch Organizations** to the **Mercedes-Benz Club of America**.
- Join our **Communities** (Mercedes-Benz Club of America), which include **Star Interest Groups** (Groups by Car Models), **Star Marketplace** (Buy and sell cars, parts, and Mercedes-Benz related items), **Star TECH** (Join the conversation on maintenance, and technical aspects of your Mercedes-Benz), and join the conversation in our **STAR INTEREST** groups.

NEW MEMBER

Jay Tucker, Sr.

Round Lake, NY

*WELCOME, and thank you for joining us!
(Current members: Please remember to renew!)*

Spring Lake Winery Tour And Luncheon



We were invited to lunch! And a tour! And some very nice wines! And home-grown cocktails! And don't forget the fabulous desserts!

April 14 was a nice day to take a Mercedes for a ride in the country and discover (again) Spring Lake Winery and Restaurant. We weren't disappointed with what we found, tasted, and experienced. Wines were served in flights of five and the menu was delightful. Thanks go to Joe and Deb Huefner for organizing the trip, and for making special delicious cookies!



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International Mercedes Benz Car Show on the Niagara Frontier

On Sunday, May 26, the Niagara Section MBCA participated in an international event at the invitation of Robert Krech, the president of the Ontario section of the M-B Club Canada. A number of the members of the Niagara Section drove their Benz's to the Reif Estate Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, to join in with more than 100 members of the Canadian M-B Club. There were scores of many models of Mercedes Benz automobiles parked on the lawn ranging from the 1970s to the current year.

Attendees were given the choice of purchasing delicious food in the winery's restaurant, or bringing their own for a picnic on the lush, tree covered lawns that border the many acres of grape vines in the vineyard. Whatever was chosen, all were able to partake of many varieties of the wineries wines gratis, courtesy of Klaus Reif who is also a member of the M-B Club Canada. The day started out quite foggy, but by noon the sun shone brightly on an event that was as sparkling as the weather.



Some of the attendees at the winery auto show and picnic. Mike D'Ambrosio, Niagara Section president, with Paul and Donna Adams, are some of the Niagara Section members who attended the Winery car show and picnic. Additional members who attended were Tony and Christine Westenfield and Zeki and Gina Al-Saigh.



The black Benz E320 Cabriolet belongs to Paul and Donna Adams. They had a for "sale sign - \$17,000" on the dashboard, and many of the Canadian members thought the price was way too low ... until they realized it was in U.S. dollars. But it was still a good price, even when converted to Canadian dollars.



Robert "Rob" Krech, president Ontario Section M-B Club Canada on left, with Klaus Reif, president of Reif Estate Winery.

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 genelong8561@gmail.com



BenzTalk



Benz and Coffee

Third Sunday of the month, 9 to 11 A.M.

June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15

2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park 14127



If you're looking for something to do on a couple of Sunday mornings, Benz and Coffee sessions are extra casual and provide a chance to get to know some fellow members while enjoying getting out there in your car.



This year we intend to enjoy more sessions and we will likely find ourselves going other places. We are eager and open to destination ideas, so throw a lawn chair in the back and stop down. And if you want to cruise together, be at Benz & Coffee

by 11:00 and follow me on the scenic route of the month. - Jeff Gaffney, Benz Talk (716) 864-7596

John's New Garage Tour

And great cars, too!

WHEN: 9:00 A.M. Saturday June 22

WHERE: 164 Doncaster Rd., Kenmore, NY 14217

Member John Scheider, a dedicated "car guy" recently completed a new garage for his prized vehicles, and has invited the BenzTalk group, and by extension, all the members to stop by and take a look.

John is the proud owner of a C-Class, two classic Oldsmobiles, motorcycles, and a new Corvette, too.



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2024 SUMMER CALENDAR

June 10th	Cruzin' at the Wurlitzer, See Page 7
June 16th	Benz & Coffee at Lockmaster Plaza, See Page 7
June 22nd	Visit to John Scheider's Garage, See Page 7
June 30th	Evangola Festival On The Beach and Car Show*
July 21st	Benz & Coffee at Lockmaster Plaza, See Page 7
July 28th	Niagara Section Picnic, Como Lake Park*
August 5th	Taste of Clarence Car Show*
August 18th	Benz & Coffee and ROAD RALLY*
August 25	Toy Town Car Show, East Aurora*
September 8th	Schlachtfest at Spring Garden*

*Please see our Facebook page and our website Niagara.mbca.org
for calendar information and details!*

****Watch for future announcements and details on email!***

*Members of all sections and guests are always invited to Niagara Section events.
Also, check the Star magazine and www.mbca.org for national events listings.*

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