



# NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

FALL 2024

## Middle of Nowhere!

- by Marlene Gaffney

On the partly cloudy morning of August 18, 2024, under the threat of an impending thunderstorm, ten adventurous teams set out on a scenic road rally through the countryside. Organized by the MBCA Niagara Chapter, the teams began the mapped-out course in the parking lot of Lockmaster in Orchard Park and worked their way through the picturesque rural towns and villages of East Aurora, Java, Eagle, Pike, Nunda and Canaseraga before reaching the tiny Hamlet of Birdsall, NY and the Birdsall Inn.



The road rally teams left the starting point at 8-minute intervals after being given a set of instructions with step-by-step directions detailing the route to be followed. A road rally is a competition that takes place on public roads in which teams compete to complete the course with the most precision. Each team has a driver and a navigator. The driver is tasked with driving at a steady pace in line with the speed limit and following the turn-by-turn directions as presented by the navigator. The navigator delivers directions to the driver, calculates times, spots landmarks and answers questions about various items seen along the route.

This rally was planned over at least 6 trial runs by the Longs and Gaffneys. It's possible that these "rally masters" had more fun than anyone while fine tuning the directions and landmark questions. The rally route took under two hours to complete and led to a great little tavern/restaurant named the Birdsall Inn, whose sign greeted our teams with their slogan "Welcome to the Middle of Nowhere".

Joanie and Gene Long logged each team's arrival and calculated the points totals. All of the participants arrived safely, some with greater ease than others. Everyone raved about the beautiful scenery and really enjoyed the destination establishment's food, drink and great staff. It's owner, "Birdsall Bob" Stachura made a point of being on hand for our arrival and insisted on gifting an eight pack of their house ale to the winning team!

The picturesque drive and the Birdsall Inn were such a popular success that several members requested that the club make a casual return trip to enjoy the fall foliage and the hospitality at our favorite spot "In the Middle of Nowhere".



Ed and Michelle Mack finished the course in 1st Place and received Birdsall Inn T-shirts and a decorative 1st Place compass.



Dennis and Christine Peruzzini took home the 2nd Place compass and a Mercedes coffee table book.



Paul and Lisa Greiner were awarded the 3rd Place compass and a ship's spyglass in hopes of improving their navigation next time.



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## Nickel City Star Advertising Rates

Annual Sponsorship Rates are as follows:

*Full Page ad* \$350

*1/2 Page ad space* \$200

*1/4 Page ad space* \$125

*Business card* \$100

Submit ad copy and/or graphics to [genelong8561@gmail.com](mailto:genelong8561@gmail.com)

Questions, please email or text or call 716-912-2902.

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

Check out our website:

[mbca.org/section/niagara](http://mbca.org/section/niagara)

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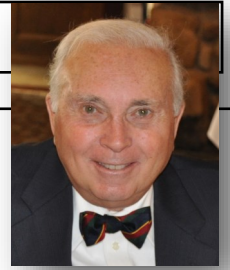
*The MBCA Niagara Section has its own Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, please click on "like" and "follow" for our page. If you do, then you will receive notices of events and photos that are posted. To find our page, search: **Mercedes-Benz Club of America-Niagara Section**.*

*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](mailto:info@mbca.org)

[mbca.org](http://mbca.org)



The summer hiatus has passed ever so quickly, and the Niagara Section-MBCA had its first meeting of the season on September 17. What a summer it was, packed with activities that provided club members the opportunity to use and display their Mercedes Benz automobiles while having plenty of fun and camaraderie at car shows, festivals, informal gatherings and a great rally that took us to a destination restaurant that nicknames itself “the middle of nowhere.” We owe continuing thanks to Gene Long for his tireless communication skills that ensure every member of the Niagara Section stays informed of upcoming events and activities so that you can participate. Of the roughly 100 members of the Niagara Section, many of the major events attract the participation of about a quarter of the membership. This is pretty good for a small club, and we will continue to work toward creating activities aimed at attracting even greater numbers of participants.

The Mercedes Benz Club of America, the national organization of which the Niagara Section is a part, is undergoing significant changes this year. New by-laws are currently up for a vote by all members, and you should have received an email from the MBCA that allows you to see the old by-laws, the new ones that are offered to replace them, and links to a website where you can vote either for or against adopting the new by-laws. There have already been structural changes within the MBCA, and a new website has been purchased that is in-

tended to allow for multiple functions within the club. For most members the new website is something you'll encounter only when you need to renew your membership. As with so many other businesses with which we interact these days, the MBCA has gone essentially completely digital, but for those among you who choose to use the good old telephone, membership issues can still be handled with a phone call to the national office. The caveat with the new website is that it is new and still needs to be tailored to the needs of the MBCA. Full and perfect functionality is not quite there yet, so if you encounter any problems trying to renew a membership, please contact the National Business office, 719-633-6427 or me, 716-390-9816.

I hope this year will see even more participation by all Niagara Section members in the many activities we have planned, and which you will be made aware of by email and The Nickel City Star. All of the club's activities continue to be envisioned and carried out by the efforts of its members who volunteer and devote many hours of their time and energy to ensure the Niagara Section remains vibrant and worth belonging to. The MBCA is only as strong as the many regional sections which comprise it. The Niagara Section will contribute to the national club's overall strength through the impressive volunteerism and participation of our members. Many thanks for all you have done.



# Schlachtfest 2024 at Spring Garden

Again this year, thanks go to Jerry Knapp for organizing the Schlachtfest event!



## MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

*If you haven't already done so, please join our new national membership roster at Glue-Up, by registering at:*

*<https://www.mbca.org/join-us>*

*To Renew your membership or update your personal info, call  
719-633-6427*



# Wurlitzer Cruise 2024

Niagara Section members enjoyed being featured during a massive cruise day at the Wurlitzer Building with preferred display parking at the central fountain.

Cruise nights are for cruising in and out, so we could arrive any time after 3 PM and stay as long as we wished. The club had preferred parking around the fountain near the main building for our Mercedes-Benzes, and we were the main gathering place, a great spot to recruit new members.

This year the weather was a bit less than favorable with cool temperatures and the threat of rain. That held some of the other participants back, but not us!





# Niagara Section Picnic 2024

This year's club picnic was held at Como Lake Park, under Shelter 16. It was a beautiful day, and it was well attended. Lots of food, including Jeff's charcoal-grilled sausages, salads, desserts, drinks and snacks contributed by the members, was enjoyed by all! Thanks to Jeff and Marlene Gaffney and the Longs!



## 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](mailto:genelong8561@gmail.com)

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# BenzTalk



## Benz and Coffee: a Summer Success!

Benz and Coffee sessions were extra casual and provided a chance to get to know some fellow members while enjoying getting out there in our cars. This summer we enjoyed more sessions and next year we are eager and open to destination ideas, so let us know if you have any ideas for possible meeting places.

Jeff Gaffney, Benz Talk (716) 864-7596

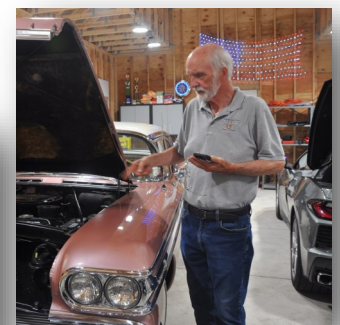


## John's New Garage Tour

*4 great cars, 3 bikes too!*

On Saturday June 22, member John Scheider, a dedicated "car guy" recently completed a new garage for his prized vehicles, invited the BenzTalk group, and by extension, all the members to stop by and take a look.

John is the proud owner of a Mercedes C-Class, two classic Oldsmobiles, 3 motorcycles, and a new Corvette, too.



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# EVENTS CALENDAR

**Monthly Member Meetings: The third Tuesday of January to May, September, October and November at 6:30 PM. All members and guests are always welcome to attend.**

**Location: Sean Patrick's, 3480 Millersport Highway, Getzville 14068**



- **October 15, Monthly meeting**
- **October 13, Foliage Drive to Birdsall Inn, Caravan from Lockmaster at 10 AM, or drive separately, Lunch served (separate checks)**
- **October 29, Planetarium Presentation and Tour, 6:45 PM Williamsville North High School \***
- **November 19, Monthly meeting**
- **December 7 (Saturday), Christmas Party, Ilio DePaulo's Restaurant \***
- **January 21, Monthly meeting**
- **January (date TBD), Wine Tasting Party at the Boehm's home \***
- **February (date TBD), Valentine's Party \***

**Please see our Facebook page and our website: [mbca.org/section/niagara](http://mbca.org/section/niagara) for calendar information and details!**

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

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