



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE WINTER 2024-5

Christmas Party 2024

Ilio DePaulo's Restaurant

We were delighted by the staff, the food, and the venue at Ilio DePaulo's Restaurant. It was a beautiful, not-so-wintery day in the south towns, but all our attention was focused inside as we were greeted by the committee members who had done a masterful job working with Ilio's staff to make Christmas special for us.

The party room was decorated for the holiday season and we were immediately in the spirit of the occasion. We enjoyed having a very good turnout of section members who not only enjoyed the venue, but the company of their fellow members. Several new members joined us and we were delighted to meet them.

Santa made a guest appearance and posed for pictures with those who still believe...

Our charity for 2024 was the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund which supports the victims of the two deadly hurricanes which hit the southeast US this year.

President Mike D'Ambrosio presented membership longevity pins to four long-standing members, and then recognized the section officers and many members who were instrumental in the success of club activities this past year.

The 2024 Member(s) of the Year Award was then presented to **JOE AND DEB HUEFNER** in recognition of their many contributions to the Niagara Section

during the year, including their duties as Events Coordinators.

Gary and Fran Baumgartner, John and Deb Boehm, and John Scheider, our Christmas Party committee, did a splendid job of arranging such a beautiful venue for this year's holiday party. Home-made favors for all were a treat! Also, the table centerpieces were given to the lucky members who's names were drawn. Thank you to the committee!

More photos on pages 5 & 6.



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niagara.mbca.org

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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.

2025 EVENTS CALENDAR - PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE

Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F 8am—5pm MT, or visit www.mbca.org

niagara.mbca.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2024 transitions to 2025, I think it's natural for us to look back at the year to reminisce fondly about all the things that were enjoyable in our lives, and to brush aside thoughts of events or occasions we'd like to forget. And when I think about subject matter to put into a message for club members to read in an issue of the Nickel City Star (NCS), I find it interesting to look back a decade or so to see what the issues and interests were in that slowly receding era. In the 2014 winter and spring issues of the NCS, then-president Bill Fix wrote about a couple of salient topics: (1) the Mercedes Benz Club of America (MBCA) suggesting an initiative for MBCA Sections to focus on recruiting younger members into the Club so as to provide a forward-looking population from which to draw future leaders for the national executive board, and (2) whether members view the MBCA as a car club or a social club, the Niagara Section urges everyone to attend its meetings in order to develop programs and events that address their interests. What strikes me about these two topics is the fact that, a decade later, they have not been displaced from the top of the list of the wants and needs of the MBCA.

But during the same decade the changes in the technology, designs, and pricing of Mercedes Benz automobiles have evolved such that they would be unrecognizable to people in 2014. This presents a significant challenge for the future of the Club. Whether younger people in large numbers will be purchasing new Benz's, or whether they'll prefer to select their Benz's from the used car market remains to be seen. And this macro dynamic is something over which the MBCA Sections will not have much influence.

The Niagara Section, however, can continue to thrive whether or not our membership rises, remains stable or declines slightly, as long as its members remain engaged and creative in mapping out and participating in the Section's activities and events for the year. 2024 marked a year of exciting automobile-centric activities (road rally, Benz & Coffee, auto meets, mechanical/technical advice and hands-on repairs), as well as social events occurring monthly throughout the year. Let's collectively resolve to maintain the high level of volunteerism and commitment that are hallmarks of the membership of the MBCA-Niagara Section.

A Happy ... and energized ... 2025 to all!

Schlachtfest at Spring Garden 2024



A TRIP TO THE STARS

What a treat! A group of our members attended a two-hour presentation at the Williamsville North High School Planetarium on October 29. This planetarium is a unique feature attraction in Western New York and we were privileged to be able to experience it.

Our guide to the stars took us to the James Webb space telescope and we were impressed by not only its design, attributes and mission, and its fantastic returned pictures were mind-boggling!



The immenseness of space cannot be described. Each small point of light can be an entire galaxy, and the Webb telescope expands “a field of view equivalent to a grain of sand held at arms length” into a full panorama of wondrous images. We also were given a history lesson about the many constellations that appear as groups of stars which ancient civilizations envisioned as images of the gods.

The planetarium is an up-to-date dome with digital projectors under computer control to present the sky overhead. The sky can be shown based on selected time, season, or hemisphere, and the dome functions as a projection screen for other images. A previous planetarium projector is also in the room and can still be used. Our guide enabled it for a group photo.

Many thanks to Deb Boehm for setting up this unique and transformative tour!



Member News

NEW MEMBERS

Barry Deal
Michael Horrigan

Jordan Stevens
Peter Fairbanks

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

2024 Christmas Party-goers



Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F 8am—5pm MT, or visit www.mbca.org

niagara.mbca.org

2024 Christmas Party continued



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2025 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



- **January 12, Wine Tasting Party**, 1 to 4 P.M. at the Boehm's, 75 Southwedge Drive, Getzville 14068... RSVP by Jan 9, more details to follow on email*
- **January 21, Monthly meeting**
- **February 16 Valentine's Party**, The Dove Restaurant, Details to follow on email*
- **February 18, Monthly meeting**
- **March event TBD**
- **March 18, Monthly meeting**

**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 and www.mbca.org for national events listings.

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