



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

SPRING 2025

Valentines Luncheon 2025

The Dove Restaurant

On a blustery Sunday afternoon of Valentine's weekend, 24 "heartly souls," members of the Niagara Section, braved snowy, icy roads to attend a romantic luncheon at The Dove Restaurant in Orchard Park. The members initially socialized over wine and cocktails in the cozy bar as the snow fell outside. Each party-goer was gifted a bag of assorted chocolates and individual Valentine cards. The numbered cards provided each person a chance to win one of the seven floral centerpieces that adorned the dining tables. The centerpieces featured a white dove and conversational heart candies.

After cocktail hour, attendees entered the dining room decorated in a fitting scheme of white and red. They dined on pasta fagioli, fresh salad, warm breads, their choice of assorted au-

thentic Italian dishes and dessert of homemade tiramisu served with coffee.

Our Valentine's party was a huge success despite the weather throwing us a curveball that regrettably

prevented many of our friends from joining in the festivities. The Dove graciously packed up the food that the absentees had ordered, and it was delivered to them at our regular meeting two days later.

We appreciate the efforts of our planners Marlene and Jeff Gaffney and Joanie and Gene Long, as well as the wonderful staff at the Dove. If you need a great place to eat, try the Dove!

- Marlene Gaffney



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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

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:

niagara.mbca.org

"Niagara Section Mercedes-Benz Club of America"



*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

With the return of fine weather, your Niagara Section Mercedes-Benz Club will once again be springing to life with lots of outdoor activities and events. The winter months offered enjoyable and well-attended indoor social events: the Christmas party, an afternoon of Wine Tasting at the Boehm's, a Valentine's Day "snowstorm" luncheon, limericks and "great craic" at our St. Patrick's-inspired March meeting, and a pancake breakfast. Many thanks once again to the MBCA-Niagara Section members who gave of their time and efforts to arrange these events which helped to brighten an otherwise gloomy time of the year.

Now it's on to the months of sunny weather where shorts and sleeveless shirts will reign, and best of all, our Mercedes-Benz automobiles will be washed clean of road salt and mud, waxed and shined and vacuumed, and displayed with their gleaming tri-pointed stars in all their glory at our summer events. Many Club members run their newer Benz's all winter, and well they should, since the cars are robustly designed and manufactured to withstand the worst of weather. And there are a number of Club members, myself among them, who drive older Mercedes that are just as well built, but because of age and affection, are coddled under covers in snug garages during the winter months. I always look forward to the day, usually by early May, when there has been no snow for a few weeks and the residual salt on the streets has been washed away by April showers. Hoping that the trickle charger has done its work since last November, I put the key into its slot – "fobs" didn't exist in 1983 – and give it a turn to its first detent which lights up the dashboard's glow plug indicator. Once the indicator light is extinguished, I mentally cross my fingers and turn the key all the way to engage the starter motor. When the old diesel Benz fires up, coughing and hacking for a few seconds and then clacking and clanging a bit more smoothly, it begins yet another summer of automotive joy. By today's standards of quiet, efficient, electric automobile propulsion, the 1983 300D Turbodiesel is a dinosaur: noisy, smelly, and slow to get rolling. Ah, but what a joy on a warm, sunny day, to be hugging a rolling and twisting country road with all the windows down, the sunroof wide open, the engine at a low growl, and that magnificent Mercedes-Benz 20th century engineering making me a motorist in Nirvana.

I wish everyone in the MBCA Niagara Section spring-to-summer motoring enjoyment, and I hope to see you at the myriad of events and activities in the coming months. Watch for them to be announced in our Nickel City Star newsletter, and by flyers in email.

Pancake Breakfast at BNHV

On March 29, 2025, the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village held a family-friendly maple themed event, which included a pancake and maple syrup breakfast. We had the opportunity to satisfy our hunger for fresh maple syrup on fluffy pancakes and sausages along with fruit, coffee and orange juice at the Heritage Village. Other activities included the Maple History Trail demonstrations of tree tapping, sap- to- syrup, maple sugaring, syrup tasting, and sugar on snow.



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MBCA Educational Foundation Announcement

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. Educational Foundation is announcing 10 grants of \$500 each for 10 chapters to establish relationships with local automotive vocational schools.

Attached is a full page advertisement for Vehicle Donation. This is our primary source of funding. Please send out the advertisement to your members or include with your next newsletter. Any funding raised will help us support future chapters involvement with local automotive vocational schools. We will be preparing a list of all of the schools and MB dealers involved with the MBUSA Technician Academy.

Our partner, Car Easy will coordinate the free pickup of any make, model, car, truck, motorcycle or boat. Running or not. Your vehicle is taken to auction and sold. You receive an donation letter from Car Easy for the full sale price of the vehicle. The MBCAEF receives 80 percent of the net value of the transaction.

Thank you for your consideration!

Bryan F. Gunning
President



**There's an Easy Way To Give.
Donate Your Vehicle.**

To learn more, call or visit:
855-500-7433
careasy.org/nonprofit/mbcaef

Give your used vehicle a new purpose when you donate it to Mercedes-Benz Club of America Educational Foundation. Donating your vehicle is easy and the pick-up is free.

Vehicle donations are tax-deductible!*
Our vehicle donation program works to get the highest return per vehicle and handles all the paperwork, too!

*Consult your tax advisor

Member News

NEW MEMBER

Garth Arnott

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



BenzTalk 2025

Starz and Coffee

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

May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, more dates to follow...

2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park 14127



Starz and Coffee sessions are extra-casual and provide a chance to get to know fellow members while enjoying getting out 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.

Join us at Starz & Coffee by 11:00 and follow me on the scenic route of the month. - Jeff Gaffney, (716) 864-7596



Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer

Niagara Section is the Featured Display June 23

Monday June 23, Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer, 908 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda 14075, 3:30 PM 'til dark.

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.



Car Cruise Saturday June 28, Noon until 3:00 P.M.

Holy Mother of the Rosary National Catholic Church, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

- ♦ Free Goodie Bags (while they last) for drivers
- ♦ Kitchen open: Noon until 2:30 P.M.
- ♦ 50/50 Raffle
- ♦ Music by Chris—DJ



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

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A Day Trip to Jamestown

Tired of Winter? Want to get out the Mercedes and go for a ride? Want to have a great lunch? Want to see the Lucy/Desi Museum and/or the National Comedy Center?*

*Mercedes not required

Here's your chance!

The Niagara Section has been invited to **The Pub**, a Jamestown landmark, which is owned and operated by a close relative of one of our members. <https://thepubjamestown.com/>

Normally closed on Sunday, but opening just for us on Sunday April 27, we are promised a great time!



What: Drive to Jamestown, Lunch, visit local attractions

When: Sunday April 27, 2025 arrive at 12 Noon

Where: The Pub, 209 N. Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

RSVP: By Sunday April 13 to: cianciom@yahoo.com

(Pay individual checks, credit cards not accepted, ATM on premises.)

The Pub Lunch Menu:

Beef on Weck
Soup-homemade
2 kinds ravioli: cheese, sausage
Pizza
Pasta/Meatballs
Cheese stuffed Shells
Lasagna

Questions?

Ask Marilyn, 716-491-8051

Extra activities (optional)

Lucy/Desi Museum

2 W 3rd St.
Open 3-5pm
\$28 per person
<https://lucydesi.com/>



National Comedy Center:

203 W 2nd St.
(10 to 5, Allow at least 3 hours)
<https://comedycenter.org/>



Niagara Section KENTUCKY DERBY



2025 DINE & DERBY PARTY

AT HAMBURG RACEWAY

SATURDAY MAY 3, 3 PM* to 8



Celebrate the 151st Kentucky Derby with us at Buffalo Raceway on Saturday, May 3rd. Whether you're looking for a day-long event, an afternoon of live racing, or just to bet the Derby, Buffalo Raceway has you covered. We can't wait to celebrate the greatest two minutes in sports with you!



The Niagara Section has made group arrangements for this year's derby party!

Your **RSVP** is required in order to attend, with preferred seating, promotions and give-away's. Price includes the buffet, tax, gratuity, etc.

Price is \$60 total, per person. Questions? Call Joe Huefner, 716-818-5440

- ***Live music included**, from 1:00 - 2:30pm. Arrive early if you wish to hear music!
- **Free Entry packet** which includes programs for Buffalo Raceway, Belmont, and Churchill, Hamburg Gaming Match Play, and more!
- **Tellers** for party patrons only.
- Located in the **Carousel Room** downstairs in the Clubhouse (old casino entrance). Doors open at 1pm.

Catered Buffet, 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Menu:

- Fresh salad bar
- Dinner rolls with butter
- Italian sausage with peppers & onions
- Seasoned baked chicken
- Pulled pork
- Roasted beef with mini kaisers
- Mixed vegetables
- Corn
- Roasted potatoes
- Mashed potatoes with gravy
- Mac-n-cheese
- Pasta with broccoli, oil, and garlic
- Assorted desserts

In order to participate, **RSVP is required**, which includes payment, to arrive **by Wednesday April 16**.

Price is \$60 per person (includes tax, tip, etc.)

Checks payable to: Niagara Section MBCA

Mail to: Beverly Basinski, Treasurer

4375 Homestead Lane

Clarence, NY 14031

Or bring to the monthly meeting April 15th.

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See page 2 for rates and details.

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2nd Hand Lions, Inc.

Spring Special:



1995 Mercedes-Benz E320 Cabriolet, CLASSIC. Black with black leather interior, seats four, power top. Only 3,700 miles per year! No rust, excellent condition. New brakes, wheel bearing and tires. **Asking \$16,900.**

Email, text or call for more photos or for a test drive.



Locating and delivering specific vehicles is my specialty, so if you are looking for a vehicle, not necessarily a Mercedes, please give me a call, text or email.

Gene Long

Call or Text: 716-912-2902 email: genelong.2HL@gmail.com

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

1983 300SD, strong turbo diesel engine, solid body, nice running and driving car, good tires, 172k miles, all accessories work: radio, power antenna, cruise control, automatic climate control, a/c (converted to 134a), power locks, gauges and clock. \$6,000 obo, call Ed:

707-336-2251, ed@edwardmack.com



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



- **April 15,** Monthly meeting
- **April 27, A Day Trip to Jamestown,** RSVP by 4/13, see flyer on page 6.
- **May 3, Kentucky Derby Party** at Hamburg Raceway, RSVP by 4/16, see page 7.
- **May 4, Starz and Coffee,** 2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, page 5.
- **May 20,** Monthly meeting
- **June 1, Starz and Coffee,** 2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, page 5.
- **June 23, Niagara Section Featured at Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer,** 3:30 to dark, 908 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda 14075, see page 5.
- **June 28, Car Cruise** at Holy Mother of the Rosary National Catholic Church, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster 14086, Noon to 3 PM. See page 5.
- **June—August,** various Cruise and Car Shows, watch for emails.

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

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

Members of all sections and guests are always invited to Niagara Section events.

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