



Section Officers

President

Obed Opare-Sem

Vice-President

Rodney Boyd

Secretary

TBD

Treasurer

TBD

Newsletter Editor

TBD

Webmaster

TBD

Regional Director

Michael Georgewsky

Welcome to our newest members

William Odell/Karen Heit Odell

- 2022 AMG GLC 43
- 2022 GLE 350 4MATIC

Victoria Philip

Richard Gangemi

Neil DeMoney

Scott Elliott

- 2018 C300 4MATIC
- 2016 GLC300 4MATIC
- 2000 CLK320

Richard Grybos

Traci Rosso

Ranae Hanson

- 2019 GLA 250 4MATIC
- 2016 METRIS

Art Lustgarten

- 1978 350SL
- 1991 300SL

Finger Lakes Section Newsletter

May 2023

Message from the Presidents – Obed Opare-Sem

Greetings, fellow MBCA Finger Lakes Section members,

Hopefully, this newsletter finds you in great health and ready for an exciting year of events. A few changes have taken place since our last get-together in November 2022. Unfortunately, we have lost our secretary, treasurer, webmaster, and newsletter editor. Anyone willing and able to step into one of these positions would be greatly appreciated.

In more welcoming news, Drew Webb, our previous Northeastern Regional Director, was appointed Vice President of the National Board of Directors. Taking his place as Northeastern Regional Director is Michael Georgewsky of the Toronto Section, a member of almost 20 years.

Regarding events planned this year, our first get-together will be in May for an adrenaline-filled performance drive at Watkins Glen in association with Lotus, LTD. For those who prefer their driving with a little less adrenaline, we will be having a calmer spring nature drive in the Finger Lakes area the following weekend. Also in June, we will be participating in the yearly Sonnenberg Father's Day show. For July, we have planned our annual picnic, graciously hosted by Red Kozinski; and in August, we will have our Fall Colour Tour with a rally option for those interested. In October, we have been invited to visit the Pineview Run Auto & Country Club for their Miles De Cars car show. Finally, we will be ending the year with our annual meeting in November, and should interest be expressed during the year, we are also considering having an end-of-the-year holiday party.

Mr. Boyd and I look forward to seeing you all at our various events and welcome any feedback, questions, or comments you may have. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in the MBCA Finger Lakes Section.

Finally, I would like to thank the following exiting officers for their service and contributions to our section:

- Donald Klug (President)
- Bob Harradine (Secretary)
- Peggy Raffo (Treasurer)
- Oscar Raffo (Newsletter Editor & Webmaster)
- Ethan Fogg (Newsletter Editor & Webmaster)

Best regards,
Obed K. Opare-Sem

Date	Event	Sponsor
May-31	Watkins Glen Performance Drive	Rodney Boyd
Jun-11	Spring Nature & Wine Drive	Obed Opare-Sem
Jun-18	Annual Sonnenberg Gardens Father's Day Car Show	Obed Opare-Sem
Jul-09	FLMBCA Picnic at Red Kozinski'	Red Kozinski
Aug-05	End of Summer Rally	Rodney Boyd
Sept/TBD	FLMBCA/West Herr Mercedes Recruitment Drive	Rodney Boyd/Obed Opare-Sem
Oct-01	Pineview Run Auto & Country Club Miles De Car Show	Obed Opare-Sem
Nov-11	FLMBCA Annual Meeting	Obed Opare-Sem
Dec/TBD	End of Year Holiday Party	Obed Opare-Sem

Watkins Glen Performance Drive



MERCEDES AND FRIENDS WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL MAY 31, 2023

If you have ever wondered what it's like to drive your Mercedes-Benz the way it was engineered to perform, or if you have been frustrated by the slow pace of traffic on winding roads, or if you want to improve your driving skills to take advantage of what those brilliant Mercedes Benz

engineers have achieved, or if you simply want to enjoy your car even more, here is the opportunity. MBCA has teamed up with Lotus, Ltd to secure the famous Watkins Glen Grand Prix track in New York. We will have both classroom and on track instructors to help you learn the skills that race car drivers use to negotiate

challenging turns safely and quickly. The exhilaration of applying the power smoothly through the turns while using the entire width of the pavements is intoxicating. While we are teaching the skills, this is not a competitive event. Toto Wolf is not going to call you the next day to try out

for the Mercedes AMG Formula One team, but you will get a certificate inducting you into the MBCA "Sportfahrer Verein" (Sports Drivers Association – it is shorter in German). This will entitle you to get the badge to proudly display on your grille or desk.

Watkins Glen Performance Drive Continued

The Watkins Glen Performance Drive requires pre-registration which is open till 1:00PM on 5/17/23. Please visit https://clubregistration.net/events/event-details.cfm?event_id=13235 to register.

The following options are available when registering:

Performance Driver Education.

The full-day Performance Driver Education Event includes multiple run groups and run sessions based on driver experience. Instructors will be provided on an as needed basis dependent on skill level. Helmets MUST be SA2015 or later. No M rated motorcycle helmets are allowed. No exceptions will be made to the helmet requirement.

- Select Instructed Student Registration if you have not yet been signed-off by Lotus, Ltd. or MBCA to drive solo.
- Select Solo Driver only if you have already been signed-off by Lotus, Ltd. or MBCA. If you have been signed off to drive solo with another group or to be considered to drive solo at this event, please send your driving resume and a letter from the current Chief Instructor of the group that has signed you off to solo to our Chief Instructor David Nagler at lotushack@lotusowners.com. Lotus, Ltd. reserves the right to do its own check out ride the day of the event.
- Select Instructor if you have previously instructed with us. If you are not planning on driving your car on track, you can choose "No Car." If you would like to be considered for instructing with us, please contact Chief Instructor David Nagler at lotushack@lotusowners.com

Performance Driving Experience,

For those who want to get an idea of what to expect from a full-day Driver Education program without committing to the cost and car preparation, we offer the Performance Driving Experience. For a reduced cost, you'll sit in on the morning driver meeting, novice classroom sessions, and have two 15-minute on-track sessions. For the first session, your instructor will drive your car at moderate speed in order to point out highlights of the track and talk you through the instruction process. For your second session, you will get behind the wheel with the instructor giving you the same type of instruction you'd receive as a full-day D.E. student. These laps will be at highway speeds with your instructor guiding you through safely and properly negotiating the turns. This is about familiarizing you with the concept of "the line" around the track and learning what to expect from instruction. Your vehicle need only pass state safety inspection for road use and no helmet is required for this activity. No helmet means no passing is allowed and the speed is limited.

Garage bays can be purchased separately. Registrations must be paid in full before you will be confirmed for the event and acceptance to the event is on a first come, first served basis



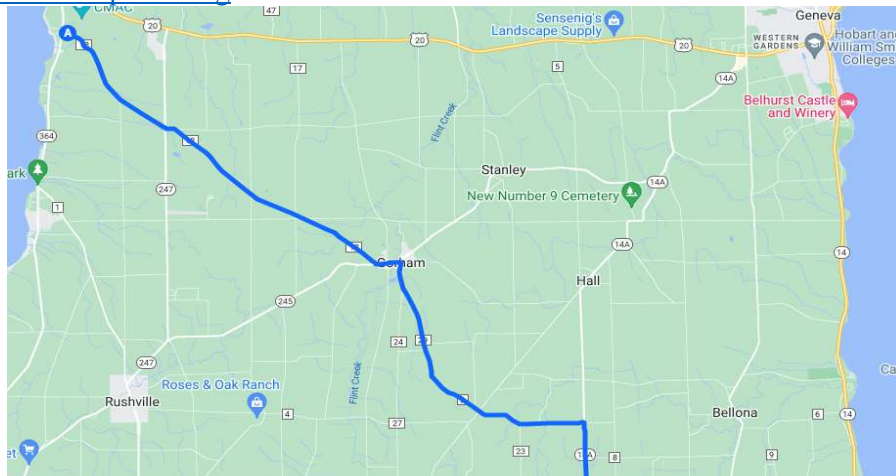
Spring Nature & Wine Drive

The Spring Nature & Wine Drive will be taking place Sunday June 11th. We will be meeting at CMAC parking lot (3430 Co Rd 18, Canandaigua, NY 14424) at 11:00AM and be driving down to Once Finger Lakes winery (655 NY-14, Penn Yan, NY 14527). Members are welcome to participate in a tasting or just hang out.

Please RSVP Obed Opare-Sem at obed.opare.sem@hotmail.com if you will be in attendance.

See below a link and copy of the route planned, download isn't necessary as we will be in a convoy.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=13LqG_TcUBzZeNqxWQ-o0HEoLE3S9S14&usp=sharing



Sonnenberg Gardens Father's Day Car Show

Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park (50 Gibson Street Canandaigua, New York 14424) will once more be the site for the annual father's day show on June 18th from 11:00 AM to 4:30PM. Members are welcome and encouraged participate. There will be all types of classic cars, food, flowers & fun for the whole family.

If you intend to "Show Off Your Wheels" its advised to buy your tickets online by 3:00PM on 6/16/23 as the price will increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00. But don't worry if you miss this date as tickets are sold till the day of the show. You can purchase your tickets at

<https://www.sonnenberg.org/event/fathers-day-car-show-3/>

Please RSVP Obed Opare-Sem at obed.opare.sem@hotmail.com if you will be in attendance.

FLMBCA Picnic at Red Kozinski'

Red Kozinski has once again agreed to host fellow club members at his home in Scottsville for a summer picnic. Join us on Sunday July 9th, it starts after 1:30PM. This event is always a top notch gathering. Red supplies the 'meats', starting the grill at 4PM sharp and the club will supply an assortment of refreshments. All are welcome to bring a dish to pass around. We welcome our newest members and look forward to getting to know each other. Please RSVP Obed Opare-Sem at obed.opare.sem@hotmail.com by Friday July 7th. The address is 1300 Scottsville-Mumford Rd. NYS Rt. 383, Scottsville, NY 14546.

“Tips from Tobin”

Protecting the Future by Saving to the Past

Records, Invoices, Photos ... documenting your car's Story

By Dave Tobin

Based on the way most of us treat our collector cars, it's safe to say that many of them will live on long after we're gone. We call ourselves 'owners' but we're just temporary stewards. As difficult as it may be to imagine someone else in the driver's seat, someone will take your place once you decide to sell the car or once you're gone all together. We certainly 'can't take them with us'.

We all become part of our car's history and it's important to document your time with a car, starting with maintenance and service. It doesn't need to be more elaborate than saving paid service records; we know it becomes thousands of dollars (even tens of thousands). When it's time to sell, a stack of invoices confirms good stewardship without the doubts that a lack of records might cause.

Working with consignment customers at Tobin Motor Works, I can't stress enough, the importance of good documentation and how it translates to quicker and higher priced sales. I've been considering a 280SL purchase. Nothing speaks to me more than consistent records by reputable shops or a marque specialist by previous owners. Service receipts with dates and mileage are key. Learn where dollars were spent. If the car was repainted, a receipt(s) showing details of the prep and paint work is important. Was the glass taken out and trim removed? A buyer is much more apt to pay up when they see the car received a \$25,000 paint job with receipts... with no receipt it might as well have been taken to Maaco for an \$895 quickie repaint. Receipts are proof, anything else is just a story from someone trying to sell a car.

If you perform basic maintenance yourself, like oil changes, keep a record. A simple page with the date and the car's mileage the day you change the oil. Make any comments you think necessary and staple the receipt from the quarts of oil and filter you bought to that paper.

Documenting the cars past ownership history is equally important as a car gets older, especially if values climb. A car you don't consider collectible today may be treasured in 10 or 20 years.

I always try to get my photo with the person I'm buying a car from the day I buy it. We both stand next to the car and have someone take a picture, shaking hands, smiling. I might staple that to my copy of the Bill of Sale or to the print out of the ad for the car I saw on the internet.

I have a client who has owned his 300SL Roadster for over 35 years. He has filled two 3 inch thick 3 ring binders, separated into the same categories as that model's Service Manual: engine, electronics and ignition, transmission, steering and alignment, suspension & wheels, brakes, cooling system, fuel system, body and trim (paint, chrome, glass, etc.). This makes finding past work quick for him and the next owner. What year were those tires or new brakes shoes fitted? No guessing or sifting through a huge stack of receipts. A potential buyer is bound to appreciate such organization and feel more comfortable knowing this level of care was taken. It instils confidence.

I have put together several, similar binders over the years, opting for a simple, chronological approach. I organize whatever records may have come with the car before I acquired it oldest to newest and add whatever I do to the car on top. Plastic sheet protectors make things uniform, the little carbon copy receipt from the upholstery shop to the full-page sheets from the tire store, everything fits well and things are protected.

However you decide to do it, keeping and organizing the ownership history and service records of your cars is important. For those of us with one or two cars it's fairly easy. For those of you with 5, 10 or 25 cars... it's more time consuming but even more important given the potential dollars involved.

I challenge all club members to review your ownership and service invoices this spring, get it organized and tuck your binder in the back seat and open it up when you take your car to a show. You'd be amazed how many conversations are started while someone pages through the history of your car.

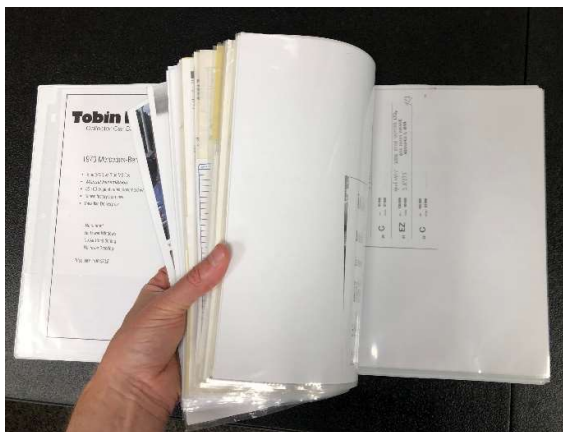
If you've kept up with it over the years, pull out what you've got. Is it all in one place? Have you copied your titles and put originals in your safe deposit box? Generally clean things up. If all you've got is a glove box jammed with papers and receipts, take the time to organize them and create a proper, useful file. It can be fun recalling and piecing things together in useful order.

Remember too, that some bills are mere maintenance and others count as asset improvement... reducing possible taxable capital gain if you sell for more than you paid for a car; not unlikely the longer you keep a desirable Mercedes-Benz.

For lots of good reasons, allocate some time into preserving your car's story!

Buyers will likely pay you more if you decide to sell and your family members will be infinitely grateful to have the information if they become legacy owners.

*Dave Tobin operates **Tobin Motor Works**, a specialty car dealership located in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York offering sales and consignment for enthusiast and collector cars of all types with a focus on vintage Mercedes-Benz. On the weekends Dave maintains **Mercedes-Market.com** – Your guide to Buying, Selling and Collecting Modern and Classic Mercedes.*



The history binder of my 1970 280 SE. This was just a 2 owner car when I purchased it in early 2020. Records with the car went all the way back to the late 70s. With these records, I was able to prove that the odometer reading of about 85,000 miles was true and correct. Without such records, mileage claims are simply claims. "Believed to be original" doesn't count... assume the odometer has gone around if there are no records to prove otherwise, no matter 'how nice' the car is.

Always take photos during heavy restoration work. These are printed photos, just a couple from an entire album full documenting a 1971 280 SE 3.5 Cabriolet I sold a couple of years ago. Especially cars worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, photos like these are extremely important.



“Tips from Tobin”

Finger Lakes, Tri-Star Advertising Rates

Annual Sponsorship

Rates are as follows:

Full Page ad\$350

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1/4 Page ad space....\$125

Business card.....\$100

(No charge for MBCA members)

Submit ad copy and/or graphics to: flmbcnewsletter@gmail.com

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

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Günter and Astrid arrived here from Bavaria Germany in the late 60's and founded Universal Imports in 1984. Günter created an incredible business that still today stresses quality service and top line vehicles. They raised three children and helped raise seven grandchildren, and built this company from scratch. Sadly, Günter passed away in 2018. Astrid continues in her role of Owner and Vice President.

Founded in 1984, Universal Imports of Rochester specializes in the sales and service of pre-owned import cars. Our sales and service teams have years of experience with all car brands specializing in Audi, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Volvo, Porsche, VW, Jaguar, Saab Land Rover, Lexus and Infiniti.

Hours of Operation

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