



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE SPRING 2023

Wine Tasting 2023

Club members arrived on a cold January day at the home of Marilyn Ciancio, where we were warmly met at the door and welcomed into her home.

All in all, we numbered seventeen members and within minutes, the dining room table was covered with all kinds of wine-pairing foods. After some mingling and discussing the Buffalo Bills, our attention was directed to the primary event of the day; the presentation and tasting of the wines. As always, we had many varieties which we eagerly sampled.

The presentation of each wine was as entertaining and memorable as the wine itself. Some wines were selected because it was the presenter's recent favorite, some discovered a bottle in their house, and one was even a bottled box wine which we had an opportunity to share and enjoy. Hat's off to Marilyn, and thank you for hosting the 2023 Wine Tasting extravaganza!



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Annual Sponsorship Rates are as follows:

Full Page ad \$350

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1/4 Page ad space \$125

Business card \$100

Submit ad copy and/or graphics to genelong8561@gmail.com (*new*)

Questions, please email 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.

2023 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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The days are longer, the sun is warmer, the snow is melting, the flowers are blooming and our thoughts turn to LOVE.....er ah, and car shows and driving events! With the help and guidance of our Events Coordinator Gary Baumgartner, we have some great events coming together this spring and summer. Check out our calendar on page 10.

As your club president, I have occasion to observe the activities of many of our MBCA sections throughout the USA and Canada. As one of the smaller sections here in Western NY, we are considerably more active than most. We hold a monthly dinner/business meeting eight months of the year and plan additional events, speakers, tours, driving trips and social activities during all twelve months. Very few other sections are doing that. The point being, there are many opportunities for members like you to become involved, participate, and get to know this great group of folks who love their Mercedes Benz automobiles. Please consider joining us at an event soon!



In Memoriam

Richard M. Hilliker, Sr.

Beloved husband of Joan Marie Hilliker, Richard was a Niagara Section MBCA member for over twenty years, a member of numerous organizations, and an executive with a number of civic groups, including the Epilepsy Association of Western New York, the Vincroft Division of Heritage Ministries, Connohio, Inc., and Tonawanda Share Corporation. An accomplished pilot, he was the President and owner of Can Oui Fly, Inc., as well as a member of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce and the Alcoholism Services of Erie County. In his free time, Mr. Hilliker enjoyed golfing, harvesting Christmas trees, gardening, riding his motorcycle and spending time with his family and beloved beagle Holly Rose. Mr. Hilliker has had a remarkable personal and professional life by working hard to achieve his goals and leaving a legacy of which his family is very proud. He will be greatly missed at Niagara Section meetings and events.



Valentine's Day Luncheon at Pendleton Creek Golf Club

This year's Valentine's Day celebration was held at a new location chosen by the event committee Deb and John Boehm, and Deb and Joe Huefner. Attendance was great and everyone dressed for the occasion! The venue was delightfully decorated and spacious, the brunch buffet excellent.



NEW MEMBERS

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

Matt Taberski
Buffalo

Anthony Vaccaro
Williamsville

April Gapinski
Cheektowaga

The Happy Valentines are...



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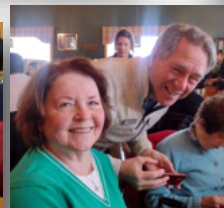
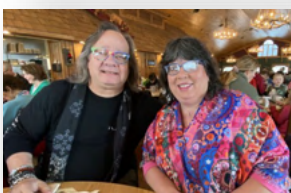
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Maple Syrup Brunch at Sprague's Maple Farms

Our Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast has been a March staple since 1995. This is the 27th year of a Western New York event that now officially spans four days for two weekends. Maple syrup production is plentiful this year due to favorable weather conditions, so there was plenty of this sticky delight to top off our pancakes. Full breakfast and lunch menus were available, and as long as pancakes were included in your order, it was all-you-can-eat pancakes! Sprague's produces its own delicious syrup which you can buy from their store along with lots of other quality gift shop variety items.



As we entered, we found about fifty people in line waiting for tables, but our hostess, Laura, provided us with reserved group seating. We were pleased because it was a very busy weekend following St. Patrick's Day. The weather had provided us with minor winter driving challenges but most of the members who signed up were there right on time.



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

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BenzTalk

Timing Chain Guides or, It's All About the Timing!

It was a subject that has been haunting us - older Mercedes (and any car for that matter) with worn timing chain guides can suffer engine failure due to worn or broken guides.

Background: Most engines, gasoline or diesel, operate with internal mechanical precision, ensuring that intake and exhaust valves are opened and closed at the proper moment so that there is no interference with the pistons. The valves are mechanically opened by lobes on rotating camshafts. The camshafts are driven by a timing chain turning a toothed sprocket. If the chain wears out (stretches) or the sprocket's teeth are elongated, the timing of the valves is affected. Worst case scenario - the chain jumps over a tooth, and the valves open at the wrong time and touch the pistons, causing the valves to bend or the pistons to break. Major repairs must be done. Over time, especially in an engine that was not maintained properly with regular oil changes, the wear becomes excessive, the chain stretches too much and the sprockets are out of spec., causing poor performance, etc.

What else can go wrong? The timing chain itself must be tensioned so that it doesn't flop around when traveling between the various sprockets. A hydraulic tensioning device keeps the chain taut, and operates on engine oil pressure. To make its way around its path, plastic guides are situated to route the chain. The guides are just that, flat or curved plastic (nylon?) devices that the chain rides on. Of course, the guides can wear out too. But a bigger problem is that the material the guides are made from can get brittle after thousands of heating and cooling cycles and tens of years inside the engine. Typically, when a cold engine in an aging car is started up, the chain puts extra strain by impacting the guides strongly, causing them to crack or break apart. In turn, the chain is loosened and can jump a tooth on a sprocket, causing major issues.

Broken guide piece



What's the answer? Change the guides before they break, of course. This can be expensive (but not as expensive as engine failure!) and finding a mechanic willing to take on the project can be daunting. Youtube videos are helpful for most do-it-yourselfers, as we all know, but having new parts and good tools are also necessary for such a task. Luckily for us, one of our members had prepared meticulously and was ready to do the job last Saturday. A couple of us were invited to attend the "surgery" on George's beautiful 380SL engine. In short, we had a blast! All went according to plan, and we ran out of time too soon but we plan to finish the job soon.

Thanks to George Camann and Jeff Gaffney for a **timely** and enjoyable day!



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2023 CALENDAR

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

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



- April, To be determined.*
- May 6—Buffalo Transportation Museum 11 am, & Hofbrau Haus 12:30 pm*
- June (Date TBD), Wurlitzer Cruise Night*
- July 19—Car Show at Fox Run, Orchard Park*
- August 13— Family Picnic at The Long's West Falls* (Rain Date Aug 20)
- September 10 Schlachtfest at Spring Garden, Marilla
- September 6—10, Mercedes Grande, Indianapolis Indiana*

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.

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