



NICKEL CITY STAR

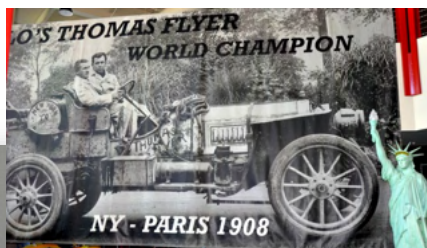
NIAGARA SECTION

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

Buffalo Transportation Museum

Featuring The Thomas Flyer, Winner of the NY to Paris Race 1908

Club members arrived on a beautiful warm summer-like day at the Buffalo Transportation Museum. Anticipating new displays every time we go there, we were not disappointed!



John Scheider, one of our members, is a volunteer at the BTM and he arranged for a special tour. We first went through a service door and walked across the lot to be the first to see two new arrivals, fresh from the Bonhams Auction. Both resplendent in red with brilliant brass trim were a Thomas five seat tourer, and a 1911 Pierce-Arrow Model 36-UU Touring Car, both built in Buffalo.

The featured vehicle in this summer's display is the original 1908 Thomas Flyer, which won the NY to Paris "Great Race" in 1908. Many stories accompany the car, which John was eager to share with the group. The car itself is indeed the one that made the harrowing trip, as verified by one of the original drivers from WNY. It had been restored to its original glory but it was felt that it should rather be the way it looked after the race. Disney's crew then took it back to 1908, adding dirt, black residue, oil droppings, missing pieces, etc., so that it now is a trip into history!



Many other cars, bicycles, and other items previously manufactured in Buffalo at the Pierce company were on display as well. After the museum we took a short ride to the Hofbrau house for a delicious German lunch. If you didn't get to join us, take a half day to see the unique and valued collection at the BTM. It's a great venue for family and those visiting from out of town to see Buffalo's history.



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Check out our website:

niagara.mbca.org

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America”**



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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.

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

niagara.mbca.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The warmth and beauty of a Western New York summer brings joy to us all. It's time to polish our Benzes, enjoy driving them and showing them off at the many cruises and car shows throughout this summer. Check for several in our calendar on pages 5,6, and 9. A new addition to our activities was initiated by our VP, Jeff Gaffney, to start "Benz and Coffee" similar to the Cars and Coffee events of many clubs. They'll be held on the second Sunday morning of each summer month in Orchard Park at Jeff's Lockmaster business. The address is on the calendar page. We'd love to see you at these events.

This fall is an election year in our Niagara Section. All officer positions are available for your leadership consideration. To nominate someone or express your own interest, simply contact our nominations chairman, Bill Fix, at email: wllfx@aol.com or phone: (716) 695-6329 or (716) 418-6329. Nominations are due at the end of September. Election time is an opportunity to bring new ideas and leadership strengths to our active club. I hope you'll consider stepping up to help our section continue to be as successful as it already is!

NEW MEMBERS

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

Thomas Palmer
Clarence Center

Darryl Jones
Buffalo

Our Club

by Bill Fix



OUR CLUB, THE NIAGARA SECTION OF MERCEDES BENZ OF AMERICA is facing some major challenges. As a member of the club, you chose to join for your own reasons. Maybe you only wanted to receive the bi-monthly magazine, *The Star*. Or maybe you joined the club with the intention of participating in the club activities and events but just haven't been able to find the time yet.

Our club is unique and was created with you in mind. And while you don't need to own a Mercedes Benz vehicle to become a member of the club, most of you do. That iconic "star" representing air, sea and land vehicles powered by the gasoline engine that was created by Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz carries with it a "mystique" that exists to this day. You've experienced it...no matter the age of your car, you have heard others say, "you own a Mercedes?". And honestly, that gives us a sense of pride in owning one of the most sophisticated, quality built and safe cars ever made. Mercedes innovation and design are often duplicated by other automobile makers.

Our club consistently attempts to provide you a stage and an atmosphere where you can mingle with other Mercedes owners or those interested in the Mercedes marque to get even more enjoyment from showing, or having your car being seen by others.

This is accomplished through your board of directors meeting on a regular monthly bases, along with any members who wish to attend these meetings, to plan and develop events for all club members to participate in. Our club plans at least one event each month and often announces additional activities of interest, such as car cruises and car shows.

In order for us to do this, we depend on our members suggesting ideas that may be of interest to others in the club. Over time, we have developed a formula that seems to work well for us...we seek out a destination of interest, within a reasonable driving distance (giving us an opportunity to exercise our prized Mercedes) and often end up at a nice eatery where we can socialize while recapping our adventure and enjoying some good food and drink. We have visited art galleries, museums, places associated with transportation i.e., train rides, bicycle museums, stage shows, bus tours, dinner cruises, historical locations, as well as...wineries, brewery's, etc... We also have some annual events such as a Wine tasting, Beer tasting, Valentine party, Maple syrup pancake breakfast, Picnic and Christmas party. Western New York is a veritable treasure chest of exciting things to see and do.

And herein lies our challenge...we need more of you to become more active and involved in your club. We used to be able to attract 20 to 25 percent of our membership to participate in our events. In today's environment we are seeing only 10 percent and sometimes less. You can easily see the dilemma. Without you, we have no club! Keeping your club going is easy. Come to the meetings, get involved in suggesting or planning events and attend events planned by others. You already have one of the best clubs in the entire nation, don't lose it through lack of participation!

Cruisin' 2023

2023 has already started off with a bang, and there will be a lot more Cruisin' to do!

Here's a list of organized cruises that we, as a club section, plan to attend:

- Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer, June 12, 3:30 PM to dusk, Flyer has been emailed. Niagara Section MBCA will be the featured group.
- Benz and Coffee, June 11, July 9, August 13. See BenzTalk (next page)
- Niagara Section/Fox Run Car Show, July 19, Fox Run Living Center, Rt, 20A Orchard Park 4 PM to dusk
- German Car Show, September 2, Cheektowaga Town Park, info call 716-319-0644
- Schlachtfest, September 10, Spring Garden, Marilla, arrive by noon for free entry with MB vehicle

For a complete listing of all cruise events and car shows, check out:

<https://lakeerie.aaca.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2022/03/Clutch-Artists-Event-Calendar.pdf>

<https://carmacruisefinder.com/new-york-car-shows/events/category/new-york-car-shows/western-ny-car-shows/>



WHEELS AND DEALS

Wheels and Deals ads are FREE to all Mercedes-Benz Club Members, \$20 for non-members.

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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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BenzTalk

Benz and Coffee

Summer Sundays

(Second Sunday of the month)

2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park 14127

If you're looking for something to do on weekends, I have two suggestions for your Sunday entertainment. Both are extra casual and provide a chance to get to know some fellow members while enjoying getting out there in your car.

First up is our inaugural "Benz and Coffee". In the mold of the original "cars and coffee" groups, this is just a super-informal monthly opportunity to share a bit of conversation before the getting on with the day. So grab coffee on the way over and bring a chair if you think you might hang out for a bit. For those who don't have other plans to get back to, this will provide a convenient jumping off point for a Sunday drive together! Benz and Coffee is the 2nd Sunday of the month from 9 to 11 A.M., meeting at 2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park.

The second event (what I will be doing after coffee on June 11) is a drive out to Merritt Estates Winery for their Strawberry Festival.

<https://www.merrittestatewinery.com/strawberry-festival> This is a pleasant 45-60 minute drive from Orchard Park and is a free event with food, drink and music. Having a classic or interesting car to display will also get us upfront parking, too.

Future get-togethers will likely find us going other places, and we are eager and open to destination ideas, so throw a lawn chair in the back and stop down. And if you want to cruise together, be at Benz & Coffee by 11:00 and follow me on the scenic route of the month.

Jeff Gaffney
Benz Talk
716-864-7596



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2023 CALENDAR

Monthly meetings resume September 19

- **June 11, Benz and Coffee + Merritt Winery, see page 6**
- **June 12, Wurlitzer Cruise Night, 3:30 to dusk, 908 Nia. Falls Blvd. NT, 14075**
- **July 9, Benz and Coffee, 9 AM to 11 AM, see page 6**
- **July 19—Car Show at Fox Run, Orchard Park***
- **August 13— Family Picnic at The Long's West Falls* (Rain Date Aug 20)**
- **September 2, German Car Show, Cheektowaga Town Park, info call 716-319-0644**
- **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.
Also, check The Star and www.mbca.org for national events listings.*

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