



NICKEL CITY STAR

NIAGARA SECTION

BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS, AND WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

SPRING 2024

Valentine's Party 2024

At the Wurlitzer

-by Gary Baumgartner



The Niagara Section members celebrated Valentine's Day with a luncheon at the classic Wurlitzer Building in North Tonawanda, NY. The event was held on February 11, 2024, in the Wurlitzer Tower banquet room where Valentine-themed tables were decorated for our celebration. Guests were greeted as they arrived and directed into the banquet room where a cash bar was waiting for them to start the celebration. This was followed by an invitation for everyone to take their seat and a welcoming presentation was done by section president Michael D'Ambrosio. This was followed with a special guest, Sury Ramirez, singing several songs for our entertainment pleasure. Then the VP of Platter's Choco-

lates, Heidi Urban, gave us a brief history of the Wurlitzer building & the Platter's Chocolate Company. After Heidi's talk lunch was ready and included a sandwich buffet with salads, assorted desserts and beverages.

After lunch we were treated to a tour of the Platter's chocolate making facilities, retail shop and ice cream soda shop.

Thanks go out to our organizers and candymakers Gary and Fran Baumgartner, Joanie and Gene Long for putting together this 'lovely' event!



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

Check out our website:

mbca.org

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America"**



**Find us on
Facebook**

*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.

2024 EVENTS CALENDAR - PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE

Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 719-633-6427 or email info@mbca.org

mbca.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike D'Ambrosio



The spring issue of the Nickel City Star comes at a time when members of the Niagara Section begin looking forward to the abundance of outdoor activities that showcase our Mercedes Benz automobiles, some of which have been stored in garages during the winter months. During recent Niagara Section events our members have learned how our automobiles can be wrapped in various designs, where auto body detailing can make paint and chrome shine like glass, and how to clean diesel injectors and replace transmission bushings. We love our cars all year long, but never more than during the months when we can roll down the windows, maybe open a top, and cruise along country lanes to the flexibly rhythmic notes of jazz playing through the Becker.

We can look forward to some different kinds of events during the next couple of months. First up will be a drive in mid-April toward Lockport, our destination being a combination winery and restaurant which promises to be a great way to push the winter doldrums out of our minds. We know that April can be fickle, so we'll need to keep our fingers crossed that the sun will be shining and the apple and peach orchards will have begun to show hints of white and pink leading to the fruits that are a hallmark of Niagara County.

In May we'll be engaging in an activity that is quite different from anything done in the recent past. On the day of the Kentucky Derby the Niagara Section will get into the spirit of the horse race by having our own section in the Clubhouse

at the Buffalo Raceway to enjoy a party filled with music, food, live racing, and for those so inclined, betting. Also in May, depending on the weather, we'll be gearing up our outdoor Benz & Coffee get-togethers for the summer months, and in addition, activities that the Benz Talk members put forward for the mechanically inclined. Close on the heels of May will be the annual Mercedes Benz showcase event "Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer" on June 10. This is proving to be a prime attraction for enticing people to become MBCA members.

The foregoing might make it sound like the Niagara Section is all about fun and games, but a good amount of time and effort goes into developing activities for the membership. In addition, officers and committee heads have been working with national MBCA leaders to get the new website working in a way that meets our needs. We still have a way to go on this front. And last, but definitely not least, a lot of work has gone into designing and writing the Niagara Section's application to compete for the Section of the Year (SOTY) Award. Gene Long, our Communication Committee Chairman, has expended many hours, days and weeks producing an application that we believe will make the Niagara Section a hard-to-beat contender for winning the SOTY Award. The national selection committee will be meeting in mid-May to decide the winner, so stay tuned.

In Memoriam



Jerry Thomas

Jerry and his wife Terry were long-term members of the Niagara Section and even longer term members of MBCA. We will certainly miss them at our meetings and events.



Karl Bauer

Many of us remember Karl Bauer, who passed away unexpectedly Friday, February 2, 2024. Karl was a previous long term member of our section, and his excellent car body shop business touched many of us through the years. Condolences are extended from the Niagara Section to Linda and Karl's family .

Member News

NEW MEMBER

Robert Sikorski

Tonawanda

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

Wine Tasting Party 2024

Once again, 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, still beautifully decorated for Christmas.

All in all, we numbered seventeen members and within minutes, the dining room table was covered with all kinds of wine-pairing foods that we brought. 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. Hat's off to Marilyn, and thank you again for hosting the Niagara Wine Tasting extravaganza!



May Event

Niagara Section KENTUCKY DERBY



2024 DINE & DERBY PARTY AT HAMBURG RACEWAY MAY 4, 1 TO 8 P.M.



Celebrate the 150th Kentucky Derby with us at Buffalo Raceway on Saturday, May 4th. Whether you're looking for a day-long event, a 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 \$55 total, per person. Questions? Call Joe Huefner, 716-818-5440

- **Live music** from 1:00 - 2:30pm.
- **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 and 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 Friday April 26.**

Price is \$55 per person (includes tax, tip, etc.)

Checks payable to: Niagara Section MBCA

Mail to: Beverly Basinski, Treasurer

4375 Homestead Lane

Clarence, NY 14031

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

Questions? Call your Section President (See page 2) or our National Business Office at 719-633-6427 or email info@mbca.org

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BenzTalk

Benz and Coffee

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

May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15

2936 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park 14127



If you're looking for something to do on a couple of Sunday mornings, Benz and Coffee sessions are extra casual and provide a chance to get to know some fellow members while enjoying getting out there in your car.

Last summer after our get-togethers we traveled to Merritt Wineries for a festival, and Canaseraga's famous Birdsall Inn for lunch.

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. 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

Presto-Changeo!- WRAPFIRM Presentation at March 19 Meeting

- by Ed Yungbluth

Do you have any aluminum foil in your kitchen? Can you imagine what your car would look like if you wrapped it in that aluminum foil?

At our monthly meeting at Sean Patrick's Restaurant on March 19th, we were treated to a very interesting presentation by Nico Pearl and his partner Joe. They are the driving force behind the local business known as WRAP-FIRM. As the name implies, they wrap vehicles, among other things, in films of various and amazing colors and patterns and logos and signage, etc. The colors they presented were but a smattering of what is available. They are limited by only your imagination.

WRAP-FIRM did a bunch of cars in pink for a breast cancer awareness event. There were several cars done in the colors and logo for Red Bull. Local media outlets have had cars wrapped in their colors and logos. And getting back to the aluminum foil, the fellas wrapped their corporate pickup truck in the film that looks just like aluminum foil.



Okay, so you say that's all too wild for you. Well ... perhaps time has laid some flaws and scratches on your chariot. You could wrap some or all of these at a fraction of the cost of re-painting. That flat black finish that's available on certain Mercedes models is quite an upcharge. WRAP-FIRM can make your car look just the same at a considerably lower cost. If you get tired of the look, the film can be removed and presto-changeo you have your original paint job. This is a great selling/trade-in point.

No! you don't need to go to the DMV to change your registration. No! the gendarmes will not ticket you for having a vehicle color different from the registration.

WRAP-FIRM is located in Elma, NY and all work is done on premises. You are encouraged to go to their website to view some of the work they have done: www.WRAP-FIRM.com

But WAIT - there's more ... all Niagara Section members will receive 10% off any service!!!

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Gene Long

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2024 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 14, Spring Lake Winery and Restaurant**
- **April 16, Monthly meeting**
- **May 4, Kentucky Derby Party, Hamburg Raceway, see page 6**
- **May 19, Benz and Coffee, Lockmaster Plaza, Southwestern Blvd., See page 7**
- **May 21, Monthly meeting (last meeting until September)**
- **June 10, Cruisin' at the Wurlitzer, Niagara Section is the featured marque***
- **June 16, Benz and Coffee, Lockmaster Plaza, Southwestern Blvd., See page 7**

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

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