



TRI-STAR



VOL. 10/ NO. 4 FINGER LAKES SECTION November, December'21, January 2022

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Presidents Message Fourth Quarter 2021 *by Don Klug*

Greetings fellow members of our wonderful Finger Lakes Section of Mercedes Benz Club of America. It has been a year of Mercedes Benz cars and friendship fun curtailed by the low attendance. Certainly, your club officers have a good idea what has caused hesitation. Our picnic was blessed by an all-day rain. The unexpected resurgence of the pandemic here in upstate New York, has no doubt provided pause. As a result, our schedule of events this past season, has become focused on driving events and gatherings that have been offered spacing for social distancing.

Our last 2021 event, which you do not want to miss, is our “Annual Meeting” on **Saturday November 13th at 1:30PM**. This is the time we begin planning for 2022 gatherings. We need your thoughts and ideas regarding motoring and car inspired gatherings. 2021 has consisted of the following events: Cars and Coffee, April 10th in Horseheads at Tobin Motor Works, the annual Fathers’ Day Car Show at Sonnenberg Gardens, the annual picnic in Scottsville, the Ontario County Historical Tour with a very nice lunch stop in Clifton Springs, the Fall Color Tour along Skaneateles Lake and of course, our annual meeting.

The 2021 annual meeting will be in Clifton Springs, NY at Warfield’s Restaurant for a lunch paid for by your club, 2022 elections will be held and the afore mentioned discussion concerning next year’s events. Lunch details can be found elsewhere in the pages of this newsletter. We experienced the wonderful venue at Warfield’s Restaurant during the Ontario Historical Tour in mid- September. Excellent food, accommodations and service.

Continued on next page

This is the reason for returning to this colorful and attractive little village called Clifton Springs for our annual meeting. Currently our board of directors has been re-aligned to accommodate change. Judy Handzo has retired as secretary/ treasurer. Peggy Raffo has volunteered to handle club expenses as treasurer and arrangements have been made to transfer this responsibility with our banking institution. The new board alignment will consist of president, vice -president, secretary, treasurer and web master. We have volunteers who have offered to serve as VP and Secretary, Obed Opare-Sem and Bob Harra-dine respectively. Oscar Lopez Raffo is happy to continue as our web master and Oscar and Peggy Lopez Raffo continue to serve admirably as our newsletter editors.

As always, Mercedes Benz owners are a very fun group of people to share time with. Please join me on November 13 in Clifton Springs. Thank you once again for allowing me to serve you as club president in 2021. I have had fun.

Happy and safe motoring,

Section President Don Klug, 2019-2021

Upcoming Event



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 13th, at
1:30 PM

ANNUAL MEETING

Location:

**Warfield's Restaurant & Bakery
7 Main Street Clifton Springs, NY 14432**

RSVP by November 5th

Please reply to Peggy Raffo

At 585-802-2507 or

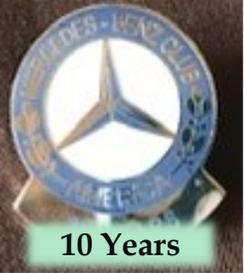
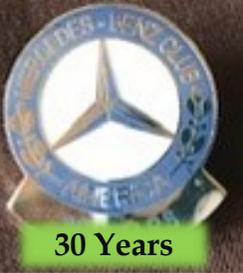
oscarraffo@hotmail.com

Please indicate your choice

(Reuben, All American burger or chicken).

Lunch to include soup/salad, a plate offering and a desert. Lunch menu options are Reuben, All American burger or chicken. The club will pick up the tab, (Drinks are not included).

2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD PINS

 5 Years	 10 Years	 30 Years
Karl Gauss Paul Marinucci Michael McNamara	John Lamb Melvin Dillon Alice Dillon	William Wayman

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD PINS

 5 Years	 10 Years	 15 Years	 20 Years	 35 Years
Michael Gambuzza	George Johnston Robert Harradine Kathy Harradine James Benz Daniel Bilow David DeGraff	Donald Klug Betsy Klug	Dan Brensan Howard Steiner	Chun Eng

Congratulations to all for so many Years of Membership!

NEW MEMBER & TRANSFER

WELCOME, and thank you for joining us!

Michael Susco

Canandaigua, N.Y.

Robert Boynton

Ithaca, N.Y.

(Transfer from Northern New Jersey.)

*Current members :
Please remember to **renew!***

Event Reports

A Perfect Afternoon in Skaneateles *by Don Klug*

If you missed our Fall Color Tour, a short road trip on Route 41 along Skaneateles Lake, on Saturday October 2nd, then



you missed a perfect day to cruise with your fellow Mercedes Benz club enthusiasts.



The warm sun shone and pleasant temperatures prevailed. The next day, a Sunday, rained all around New York State. The jaunt on route 41 from Cortland down into the valley that shelters Skaneateles and her finger lake is a most beautiful drive indeed.



The trees were offering a brief hint of their colors that fall in upstate New York offers and this made the drive enjoyable indeed. At a brief overlook stop to

enjoy another view down onto Skaneateles Lake and her surrounding colorful hills offered yet another lake view as well as another photo opportunity.



Our final destination was the historic Sherwood Inn Restaurant and Hotel, established in 1807, located next door to the beautiful and historic water processing plant that provides Syracuse with her drinking water. From our table inside the Inn, we were able to gaze upon the north shore of the lake. Downtown offered many opportunities to enjoy the small-town atmosphere that Skaneateles offers. Shops of all types and shapes also included one last opportunity to enjoy a last ice cream treat before cooler weather negates such pleasures.

So, if you missed this wonderful last chance group drive, note in your 2022 calendar that another good weather driving season awaits, alas, in about eight months.

Event Reports

Ontario County Historical Society's 2021 Ontario County History Ride

By Ethan Fogg

Eleven members of the Finger Lakes Section of MBCA gathered at Ontario County Historical Society on Saturday, September 18 to exercise their handsome Mercedes Benz vehicles and share in Ontario County Historical Society's 2021 Ontario County History Ride. This cross-county motoring event introduced longtime county residents and new friends from across the Finger Lakes to aesthetic and cultural assets in numerous communities across Ontario County.



By way of a printed guide, drivers and their companions were directed to charming historic markers, well-preserved properties, and a few structures waiting impatiently for new life

including Parrott Hall. On the campus of Cornell AgriTech in Geneva, this three story Italianate Villa has garnered the attention of the Landmark Society of Western New York and the Preservation League of New York State. Efforts to stabilize and repurpose the building are ongoing. As part of the day's self-directed program, guests gained insights into the area's rich and complex Native American, religious, manufacturing, scientific and agricultural history



Warfield's Restaurant & Bakery in Clifton Springs

Continued on next page

After two hours of cruising city streets and county roads (and the occasional unplanned k-turn), guests gathered at Warfield's Restaurant & Bakery in Clifton Springs for a delicious lunch and the chance to connect with others who had set aside part of a sunny Saturday to learn about Ontario County.



Continued on next page

Event Reports

The Club was well-represented at the event and after a brief program and an indulgent dessert, many of our members - including newcomers - adjourned to an adjacent parking lot for a photo shoot.

Our Chapter enjoyed a day ideal for top-down driving, the Historical Society sold out a meaningful fundraising event and all of us met a couple of new friends.



MERCEDES FREUDE

“The Joy of Everything Mercedes”

MBCA's newest & greatest National Event EVER!

Combining the best and most-popular activities
of both *StarTech* & *StarFest* into one
fabulous Gathering!

Location:

Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort,
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Dates:

Mercedes-Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021

Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Along with our MBCA Event,
we will be able to experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn-East,
as well as the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO Welcome Reception, Historic Rally, Driving
Events, Tech Sessions, MBCA Concours/Cars & Cocktails, MBCA Banquet, Golf, and a
Special Limited Visit to the Robert Jepson Collection Tour.

The hotel reservation link is open and available to book hotel rooms:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/hilton-head/meetings/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-10302021>

OR reservations can be made by calling Omni central reservation at 1-800-843-6664.

*Ask for the group code:110221MERCEDESB. Cost per night, for a Resort View Studio Suite, is \$169,
plus taxes and daily discounted resort fee.*

Further details coming your way in the near future!

Rick Siefert
National Events Chair
rick.siefert@att.net



Advertisement Photo credits:
Hilton Head Island Visitor & Convention Center
Omni Hilton Head Ocean Resort
HHI Concours d'Elegance

Mercedes Freude Registration Details

Join us at MBCA's newest National Event, **Mercedes Freude**, as we celebrate "The Joy of Everything Mercedes." We look forward to safely being with members and attendees as we relish our passion.

Following are details of some of our planned activities.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

Packet pickup for registrants will open at 9 am. Attendees will gather in the evening during the Welcome Reception featuring member camaraderie around light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

Join other attendees for ideas on places to visit and available tours on Hilton Head Island, including Dolphin Watching Cruises, the Coastal Discovery Museum, boutique shopping, as well as other local activities. Carpooling can be arranged between attendees.

Do you want to attend an array of great Tech and Educational Sessions on Wednesday, November 3rd? For only \$75 more, sign up for Primary Plus Registration, see below. Some of our included speakers are noted below:

Dale Moss, a Carolinas Section member and Concours judge will present a session on how to detail your car. He prepares Robert Jepson's automobiles for Concours events, including his 1938 Mercedes-Benz 540K Cabriolet that won Best of Show at the 2019 Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance.

Ramsey Potts, from RM/Sotheby's will give an informative session on the collector car market's current state, focusing on Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Peter Lesler, Concours judge and current MBCA National Concours Committee Chair will present a session on the specific details on concours judging, which attendees will be able to appreciate when they attend the Hilton Head Island Concours on Sunday.

Jim Fekete, a member of the Peachtree Section, will introduce TSD rallies to our members and give tips on how to win this type of rally. (Note: Attendance at this session is not required to participate in the rally on Friday.)

Bill Faison, "Entering My Car In An MBCA Judged Event".

George Murphy, National Technical Information Chair.

Bob Platz, 190SL restorer extraordinaire!

David Tobin, collector car specialist and Editor of Mercedes-Market.com, and **Andy Reid**, Editor and valuation expert at Classiccars.com journal, team up on "Classic Mercedes on a Budget: Five Cars Under \$30,000 You Should Buy Today".

Ryan Hemphill and **Blakely Leonard**, co-founders of The MB Market: the world's first online auction platform dedicated exclusively to Mercedes-Benz, will discuss how to get the best price when selling your Mercedes-Benz.

Jeff Zurschmeide, The Star® Editor, "What Makes an Excellent Regional/Sectional Membership Newsletter?" and an additional seminar on how to take magazine-style photographs of cars.

Pierre Hedary, MBCA member and Classic Mercedes Specialist, "How to Purchase a Classic Mercedes the Wrong Way" and "Maintenance Questions That Must Be Answered".

Information about other speakers will be provided as they are confirmed.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

The Robert Jepson, Jr. Car Collection tour is full. If you are interested in being put on a waiting list, [CLICK HERE](#).

Robert Jepson, Jr. Car Collection will be available for a complete tour on Thursday morning. This tour will include a caravan drive to Gregorie Neck Plantation, a beautiful 6,000-acre venue located in nearby Jasper County, refreshments at the venue, and a complete tour of Robert Jepson's car collection and wonderful facilities. **Cost \$30/person.**

New Event! Butterfield Plantation Tour: During the new Mercedes Freude Event, 50 lucky MBCA Members will be able to travel back in time from the Omni Hotel to the Low Country of South Carolina. You will be treated to interesting facts and visit historic locations in the Low Country. On the way to Butterfield Plantation, you will stop at points of interest, narrated by Butterfield's owner and fellow MBCA member Chuck Campbell and Butterfield's manager, Keith Smith. Once at Butterfield, Chuck will explain how this 1800 acre estate was established and its unique history from 1929 until the present.

Lunch will be provided at Butterfield as Chuck explains the current use of the estate. You will also be able to see a few of his prized Mercedes-Benz Ponton collection will be on the grounds as well. **Cost \$30/person**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Friday will be a day for exploring the Lowcountry. For the competitive driver and navigator that want a challenge, join us at the [TSD rally](#) (Time-Speed-Distance). A catered lunch will be provided to participants in the TSD rally for \$15 each. TSD rally awards will be presented to the winners at the Friday evening banquet.

For those who want to enjoy the scenic area, a leisurely cruise will stop at some of the historical locations within the surrounding area. A local historian will be at one of the stops to give a brief overview of the area's history. The caravan tour will culminate at the [Fish Camp](#) for lunch (on your own) in the historic waterfront setting.

Later in the day, a **Cars & Cocktails** will be held to show off our member's Mercedes. MBCA members will be voting for the People's Choice awards, which will be presented at the Final Banquet.

Mercedes Freude will conclude on Friday evening with a **Fabulous Final Banquet**, which will include a **Lowcountry Boil** of great starters and then local shrimp, potatoes, andouille sausage, corn on the cob and smoked old bay broth, grilled chicken, pickle brined and grilled with boiled peanut vinaigrette, along with many traditional Southern accompaniments. A cash bar will be available and the awards for the TSD rally and Cars & Cocktails People's Choice will be presented.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

Saturday evening's wonderful BBQ Buffet, including brined chicken, buttermilk fried with dill pickles, smoked brisket (18 hour smoked with Carolina and Kansas City BBQ sauce, and pork ribs (dry rubbed and slow smoked) will be held at the Omni for MBCA attendees and the other car clubs in the Legends of the Autobahn – East. Enjoy a wonderful meal and mix and mingle with others to discuss the cars seen at the event on Saturday afternoon at the Port Royal Golf Course.

PRIMARY REGISTRATION includes the Welcome Reception, TSD and Historic Rallies, scenic driving tours, Cars & Cocktails Show, and the Friday evening Final MBCA Banquet. Cost: \$175/person.

PRIMARY PLUS REGISTRATION includes everything noted in the Primary Registration, plus the ability to attend the various Tech & Educational Sessions on Wednesday. Cost \$250/person.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Are you interested in purchasing discounted tickets for the Hilton Head Concours, Savannah Speed Classic, or placing a car in the Legends of the Autobahn East?

[Click here to visit the Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance & Motoring Festival website.](#) (By clicking on this link, you will be leaving our site.)

PLEASE NOTE: Registering for Hilton Head Concours, Savannah Speed Classic, or Legends of the Autobahn East is not part of the Mercedes-Freude registration process.

If you interested in purchasing discounted tickets for the Hilton Head Concours, Savannah Speed Classic?, or placing a car in the Legends of the Autobahn East? Copy and paste the following website link in your browser: <https://tickets.hhiconcours.com/p/about/legends-of-the-autobahn>

Login to Register

[Login Here](#)

Not a Member?

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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.

Hours of Operation

Monday Thru Friday: 7:30 am to 6:30 pm
Saturday : 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Sunday: Closed

<https://www.universalimports.com>

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.

Mercedes Benz of Rochester



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Mon-Fri:
7:00am – 6:00pm**

**Service Department
(585)424-4740
Mon-Fri: 7:00am – 6:00pm
Appointment Recommended**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE: The FLMBCA
Newsletter of 1st Quarter 2022 will be
published February 1, 2022.
You may access Newsletters by visiting our
Website:
Fingerlakes.mbca.org/section-newsletters**



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Event Reports site is:

Fingerlakes.mbca.org/section-event-reports

FLMBCA WEBSITE:

[***Fingerlakes.mbca.org***](http://Fingerlakes.mbca.org)

Trip Routing (MBUSA) Call: 800-367-6372

**Tech Assistance and Information:
Tech talk and website forum with
George Murphy, link on-line thru
Star.**

Media Site:

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