



Finger Lakes Section
Mercedes-Benz Club
of America, Inc.

President

Bob Handzo
5195 Canadice Lake Rd.
Hemlock, NY 14466
585-367-2815
handzo912@twc.com

Vice President

Don Klug
518 Sherman Street
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-8800
donklug@twcny.rr.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Judy Handzo
5195 Canadice Lake Rd.
Hemlock, NY 14466
585-943-6377
handzo912@twc.com

Newsletter Editor

Volunteers???
Contact Judy above!!!

Webmaster

Dave Kliment
34 Bolton Trail
North Chili, NY 14514
webmaster@fingerlakesmbca.org

**MBCA Northeast Regional
Director**

Ernie Fancy
1 Butterworth Road
Holland, MA 01521
508-377-8286
fancyer@con.net
Please send address changes
to the National Business
Office.
800-637-2360

Finger Lakes Section

TRI-STAR

Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

Fairport, NY Volume 5 Number 3 Jul/Aug/Sep 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, 3RD QUARTER 2016

Our two spring tech sessions were well attended and, as always, very informative. Thanks to both Bill Wayman and Simon Pontin for their time and for sharing their specific areas of expertise. The Sonnenberg Father's Day Car Show had perfect weather for us this year. Ten beautiful Mercedes were on the lawn and were much admired by the large number of show attendees. Getting together with the Niagara Section is always fun and we enjoy sharing picnic fare, stories of past events and plans for new ones.

STARFEST plans are proceeding for August 3rd through the 6th. The location in eastern Connecticut is close enough for New Yorkers to easily drive. You'll meet members from all over the country. The activities are numerous and varied, something for everyone: track, rally, concours, ladies' luncheon, nautical cruise not to mention the host hotel is Mohegan Sun with its' casinos. It's an event that will be well remembered. Will we see you there?

We need suggestions for club gatherings in August, September and October. Judy has a couple of ideas but they are in areas we are not familiar with: Southern Tier, east side of Cayuga Lake, Sackett's Harbor are possibilities. Need help here.

The annual meeting will be held on November 13th at Belhurst Castle in Geneva. We are in need of members willing to serve on the Executive Board. If you have an interest please contact Vice President Don Klug at donklugtwcny.rr.com.

Enjoy the summer, exercise your Mercedes!

Bob



Finger Lakes Section – MBCA

Upcoming Events Schedule 2016

July: Sunday July 10TH, 1:00PM - Annual picnic and new member welcome at Red Kosinski's home in Scottsville. Additional information and directions have been emailed to all members and are also available elsewhere in the newsletter.

August: Wednesday 8/3 Through Saturday 8/6 – StarFest. Hosted by the Minuteman Section in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner". Mohegan Sun is the hotel headquarters in Uncasville. Track events will be held at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, the Concours d'Elegance will take place at The Golden Lamb Buttery Farm on Saturday morning. Nautical cruises will depart from Mystic Seaport, the Ladies of Mercedes-Benz will enjoy a special luncheon and wine tasting and a scenic rally is available. Plus...meet members from all over the country!

<http://starfest2016.mbca.org/schedule>.

September: TBD

October: TBD

November: Sunday the 13TH, 1:30pm – Annual meeting and election of officers for 2017 followed by Club hosted luncheon at Belhurst Castle, Geneva.

December and January 2017: No meetings/events. Make plans to go someplace warm where you can enjoy driving your Mercedes.

Sonnenberg Gardens Father's Day Car Show

June 20TH, 2016



NO RAIN!! A beautiful sunny Father's Day this year and the number of show cars and attendees were more than I can remember from previous years. Finger Lakes and Niagara Sections members and their gleaming cars were together under the giant trees in our favorite area just below the beautiful mansion again. The Finger Lakes Porsche Club was spread out on our right for their annual club



concours. A large contingent of Corvettes was across the access lane. They were flanked by a goodly number of Mustangs including two Shelby Cobras. Gillian and I walked the show field and were disappointed to see only one VW bug and one BMW. We thought there would be a larger German contingent. There were hot rods, beautifully restored antique cars, big boat-like Buicks, lots of Chevys in amazing colors, a couple of kit cars and so many I'd never seen before. We checked out the food trucks and the chicken bar-b-que, walked through the green houses filled with orchids and stopped at the adjacent Finger Lakes wine bar for a tasting.



The Clubs moved two picnic tables out of the sun, dressed them up with tablecloths and filled them with delicious picnic fare. Salads, fruits, pizza squares, tiny quiche, crackers, chips, dips, pates and wines. There was not much left by the end of the afternoon and no one mentioned being hungry.

As the morning moved on to 11:30, when the public gets entry, we had to move our cars to double rows and several were placed across the lane from our area as the lawns filled up.

We had ten beautiful Mercedes on display, sedans and SLs. We answered questions from the attendees, exchanged stories, solved presented problems, gave advice, talked about the August Starfest in Connecticut and, as always, enjoyed the companionship of Mercedes people like ourselves. We were impressive enough to add two new members who brought a car to sell and changed their minds after some persuasive talk from “the people who know”!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who displayed their car, brought food and added to a wonderful afternoon.

Judy Handzo



A Note to MBCA Finger Lakes Members

This past Wednesday, Kathy and I took advantage of a chance to join the Lotus Club for a day at Watkins Glen and participation in their "Laps & Lunch" experience. Our Mercedes Club was invited to participate through connections and interclub support of Bob & Judy Handzo.

About a month earlier I had contacted Tony Vaccaro of the Lotus Club to check out the various options for the day. I learned that they had rented the track facilities for the entire day similar to prior years but at a much higher cost since the complex was nearing completion of a \$35 Million upgrade which includes a recently finished \$12 million complete resurfacing of the 3.4 mile track. This was the first complete repave since 1989 and included newly poured pit road concrete, upgraded electrical work, freshly installed concrete rumble strips in the turns and perimeter grading throughout. The Lotus Club was anxious to have additional participants to help share the increased cost.



With a sunny forecast and mid to high 70 degree anticipated temperatures, we took a leisurely cruise in our SL320 down the Thruway and south on route 14 through Geneva to the legendary track. We arrived at 9:45 and we cheerfully directed at the main gate to the garage area where over 40 cars were already preparing and on the track for the days activities. I was amazed that we truly had the facility use for just our limited group of cars and participants. We could go back out to the grandstands for viewing or go anywhere within the

camping, infield and garage areas during the entire day.

For novices there was the option of hiring a ride-along certified Instructor to learn necessary techniques for high speed laps and learning the limits of their equipment. This required helmets, safety gear, a pre-track inspection of brakes and tires and a drivers safety orientation. These future racers were allotted scheduled track times throughout the day. Qualified/Certified drivers paid a separate fee to join one of several groups who ran laps in alternating series of about 15 cars for open racing. These mixed groups included not only Lotus but high-performance Mustangs, Corvettes, Alpha-Romeo, Mercedes, and others. I don't know how Tony managed the exposure for this event but there were cars from Florida, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Connecticut, New York (of course) and other states.

There was a break at noon where we joined in the "Laps and Lunch" options. Having met Tony in the garage for these tickets at 11:00, we were directed to an entry gate for track access and lined up along with about 20 other cars for 3 controlled laps of the entire track including the Boot area. After a Glen security vehicle checked out the entire track to be sure it was clear, we entered in the area of the "Esses" in turn 2 followed by a County Sheriff to be sure no one lagged behind with car problems or in an effort to play catch-up using excessive speed.

Having checked the track map in advance, I expected 11 turns but had not looked up the elevation map which shows the uphill and downhill effect on some of the turns. I was surprised that the "Bus Stop" on the back straight was a minor slowdown at our reduced speeds but probably would feel differently at NASCAR speeds. The rumble strips were not a problem although they looked like they could be pretty disruptive. Turn 6 was tougher than it appears since you are running downhill when you enter it. Turn 9 is pretty tight but you come into it uphill and just have to be cautious that there might be a car you can't see who failed to make it ahead of you. The track surface was flat, incredibly smooth and they maintain that drainage and the ability to dry the surface and resume racing has improved substantially.

We were able to take a planned stop on the front straight and take photos at the Finish Line during Lap 2. After completion of our final lap, we headed to the Glen Club for our planned luncheon. This was our only disappointment of the event since the Glen Club is normally a Members Only building and several of us were looking forward to seeing it and enjoying lunch with the view it offers of the "Esses" and the surrounding countryside. Instead we were directed to the new Media Center which is another exceptional facility for a great buffet lunch and chance to share car talk with friends and new acquaintances.

After lunch we drove over to the Grandstands near turn 2 and watched the next racing session before heading for a leisurely ride home through Penn Yan, Canandaigua and Mendon. It was a great day all around and one we strongly suggest for our friends in our Mercedes Group to consider for next year when the Lotus Club once again offers this opportunity.

Bob & Kathy Harradine



An Afternoon of Technical Advice and Simple Answers by *Don Klug*

Pictured above is Guru Bill Wayman, who welcomed the Finger Lakes Mercedes Benz Club to his home in Ontario, NY on April 24th to answer automotive and technical questions regarding your lovely and beautiful automotive wonders. Bill has a vast automotive knowledge developed over 50 + years of experience that he has been willing to share with club members for the past few years. The day presented a sun filled spring afternoon and Bill was able to delight us with information about clearing up car issues or restoring a vehicle to its former glory. It was a wonderful opportunity to grill the expert and become a more knowledgeable Mercedes Benz owner. Attendees present at this tech session enjoyed a wide array of benefits, social activity and fellowship that our common passion of Mercedes Benz automobiles offers. Below are photos of some of our members alluring baby's.





Mercedes-Benz of Rochester would like to thank you for your loyalty by giving you:
20% OFF all Mercedes-Benz Parts and Accessories **AND 15% OFF** your next service

**Mercedes-Benz of
Rochester**
4296 W Henrietta Rd

Parts Department
(585) 424-4740
Mon-Fri: 7:30am – 6:00pm

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

A Detailing Afternoon by Don Klug



Simon Pontin and Richard Chappell of Finger Lakes Vintage and Sports Car, LLC, Shortsville, NY, conducted a seminar on May 22d to show club members how to properly clean and detail their prized cars for the show season and personal satisfaction. The gentlemen demonstrated exterior paint care and correct buffing, using long time club member Larry Miller's 1999 SLK as an example. Interior cleaning tricks and all the little extras was included as well as the areas that may be beyond the DIY Sunday carwash aficionado.

Of interest and on display Mr. Pontin's 1960 4CV Renault, shown pictured below.





For Sale: 1995 E320 Cabriolet Brilliant Emerald Green exterior, Cream Beige leather interior. OEM cylinder head gasket, engine wiring harness, combo switch and A/C evaporator replaced. Purchased 2003 Vero Beach, FL at 90K miles, current mileage 123K. No winters. Pictures available. Make offer. Roy O. Kuck, Angola, NY. roj67@msn.com



I'm sorry to say that I (Vickie Patridge) am resigning from my FLMBCA job as Editor of this newsletter. It has been a heartwarming experience meeting all the great people of the club. I wish you all well and great success in the future.

If you are interested in becoming the next Editor of the newsletter, please e-mail Judy Handzo at **handzo912@twc.com**.

BLING FOR YOUR MERCEDES!

Let the world know you are a member of the Finger Lakes Section MBCA with a new powder coated heavy metal license plate frame to spark up the back, and or front, of your Star Car. We've had these sturdy frames made by Preferred Powder Coatings in Minnesota. They feature "MBCA" and the Mercedes logo on top and Finger Lakes Section and the club logo on the bottom in blue and white. The coated frame is matte silver. They are available at \$22.00 each at every gathering and event and can be mailed to you for a small additional charge. Call or e-mail Bob or Judy to order one today!
handzo912@frontiernet.net / 585-367-2815.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, 3rd QUARTER 2016

Lawrence Quinn, Rochester, NY

Finger Lakes Vintage & Sports Car LLC

Maintenance, Repair, Restoration



Brake Systems – Suspensions

Engine Service – Exhaust – Oil Changes

Cooling Systems – Fuel Systems - Tires

Batteries – Electric Systems - Restoration

www.flkvsc.com 54 W Main St Shortsville NY 14548 –
585.750.8091



StarFest®! StarFest® 2016, August 3-6, will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush Green Valleys and picturesque Hilltop Farms, it's also known as the Antique Capital of Connecticut. From the seashore near the host hotel, to the lush greenery near the host track, the two linked by a short trip on I-395.

Spectacular scenery and iconic New England towns await your discovery.

For more information e-mail:
Mercedes Club of
America@mail.vresp.com

MBCA 2016 European Tours Sept. 19th

MBCA's Stuttgart Germany Tour presents the rich heritage of Mercedes-Benz in its home region.

Travelers will enjoy:

- Guided tours of the Carl Benz Museum in Ladenburg
- The Daimler Workshop in Bad Cannstatt
- AMG facilities in Affalterbach
- The Mercedes-Benz Museum and Brand Center in Unterturkheim
- The Technical Museum in Sinsheim
- The Bad Cannstatt Engine Assembly Plant
- The Classic Center in Fellbach and the Sindelfingen assembly plant that covers more ground than the entire principality of Monaco.
- AND be one of the first to witness the production of the Mercedes-Benz 2016 CLA Sedan and GLA SUV in Hungary on our G-Wagon tour in Austria and Hungary October 2016



This Tri-Star newsletter is published quarterly. Opinions, ideas, and suggestions in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher of MBCA. No authentication is implied by the publisher of MBCA. No inference should be made that the products or services advertised herein have the approval of the publisher, MBCA, for use by its licensees, which include MBCA. Personal ads for parts and auto sales are free to members and commercial ad rates are available upon request from the editor.

Accredited journalists can connect with and follow us at:

Media Site: www.media.mbusa.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mbusapressoffice

Twitter: www.twitter.com/MBUSA_News

MBCA Membership Benefits:

Six Big Issues of The Star

New Friendships

Local Section Events

Networking

Club Forum

Local Section Newsletter

National Events and Convention

Free Classified Ads in the STAR and Local Newsletter

Free Technical Advice and Reprints

Vintage Reprints Club Store and Raffles

Website at www.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.***



Like us @ [facebook.com/FingerLakesMBCA](https://www.facebook.com/FingerLakesMBCA)

Facebook events posted at:
[facebook.com/FingerLakesMBCA/Events](https://www.facebook.com/FingerLakesMBCA/Events)

E-Mails are sent from:
webmaster@fingerlakesmbca.org



**Finger Lakes Section
Mercedes-Benz Club
Of America, Inc.**

Vickie Patridge, Editor
100 Sweets Corners Road
Fairport, NY 14450

FIRST CLASS MAIL