



Finger Lakes Section

# TRI-STAR

*Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.*

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Mercedes-Benz Club  
of America, Inc.**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2015

We're winding down the year and looking forward to the Annual Meeting in November. Hopefully our "off" months (December and January) won't reach the low temperatures or amounts of snow we endured this past winter and we can look forward to getting together again at our annual February Barbecue. Perhaps the Syracuse area in '16 so we can nudge those eastern area Finger Lakes members we don't see often enough to join the fun.

Our collaboration with the Western NY Lotus Club will offer another chance to enjoy driving your Mercedes on the Watkins Glen track next July. If you've every wished to learn more about the handling and performance of your car this is the time and place. Next August will bring the National Starfest meet to Connecticut, hosted by the Minuteman Section where you'll have not only more opportunity to exercise your skills and your car on the track at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park but also to enjoy the rally, the concours, meeting new friends and immersing yourself in all things Mercedes. Headquartered at The Mohegan Sun Resort there's always gambling and shows if the automotive saturation is too heavy.

We have three sponsors who help underwrite our activities – Mercedes-Benz of Rochester, Dunn Tire at their many area locations and Finger Lakes Vintage and Sports Car owned by member Simon Pontin. We ask that you patronize their businesses and thank them for their interest in supporting our growing club.

I want to thank our members who have suggested events and followed through with the planning, hosted gatherings at their homes, helped other members with questions and solving problems and for being there when we needed them. We can't tell you to attend events but we share our delights of belonging to the Club and perhaps you'll want to participate. It's not only the car, but the friends you'll meet sharing the same interests. That's what makes MBCA special.

Enjoy the rest of 2015, take a drive in your wonderful M-B and admire the gorgeous autumn colors before everything turns white and you're back to driving the winter wheels. Or take yourself and your Star Car to warmer climes, return at the end of March.

BOB

## FINGER LAKES SECTION - MBCA

### UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE 2015/2016



**OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>** – Lunch at Sorge’s Restaurant in Corning at noon followed by a tour at the Corning Museum of Glass including their new exhibit galleries. This is a MUST if you’ve never been here. Reservations are necessary and full information is elsewhere in this newsletter. E-mails will be sent prior to the date.

**NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>** – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2016 followed by club hosted luncheon at Belhurst Castle, Geneva, 1:30PM. Lunch reservations are necessary and menu choices will be e-mailed to all members in late October. Election instructions are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

**DECEMBER/JANUARY** – No meetings.

**FEBRUARY-** Annual winter barbeque. Date and location to be determined. Preference will be for a location easily reached by our Syracuse and Southern Tier members and all suggestions are welcomed. Judy or Bob at 585-367-2815/[handzo912@frontiernet.net](mailto:handzo912@frontiernet.net) look forward to hearing from you. Confirmed details will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter newsletter and e-mails will be sent to everyone before the chosen date.

**MARCH** – When you receive your 1<sup>st</sup> quarter newsletter in January 2016 hopefully the monthly Upcoming Events column of the new year will be filled in by fun and interesting events you have suggested at the Annual Meeting or by contacting one of the club’s officers.

Confirmed month events are: June – Father’s Day Car Show at Sonnenberg Gardens, Canandaigua. July – Mercedes/Lotus DE at Watkins Glen; Annual Picnic at Red Kosinski’s, Scottsville. November -Annual Meeting.



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## **CLASSIFIEDS:**

**For Sale: 1995 E320 Cabriolet For Sale.....** 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](mailto:roj67@msn.com)

**1991 Mercedes-Benz 500SL.** Auto trans., 110,000 miles, hard and soft tops. \$9,000. Chris Lusert @ 607-438-8211. First place award at Sonnenberg Car Show in June. Other photos available. Will be going into winter storage mid-October. - mid-April.

**From National:**

I am trying to find a good home for my 1987 300SDL with 67,XXX original miles. It is dark grey with a gorgeous Palomino leather interior. Interestingly, I am the second owner and it was owned by a high wealth Beverly Hills family before I had it shipped here about a year ago.

Any thoughts on someone who might want to learn more or how I can market it? I am finishing a 300CD restoration so it is time for the grey ghost to go to a good forever home. Tom Fenig 704.363.7551 5720 Carnegie Blvd Charlotte, NC 28209 704.363.7551

***Do you have something to sell or something you want?***  
*E-Mail Vickie at [vpatridge@netzero.com](mailto:vpatridge@netzero.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](mailto:handzo912@frontiernet.net) / 585-367-2815.



***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2015***

***Kevin Fear, Brewerton, NY***

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## ***Join us in New England: StarFest 2016 | August 3-6***

*StarFest, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America's largest national event, takes place bi-annually on even numbered years. The event draws members from around the country and Canada.*

**Events include:** Track | Concours d' Elegance | Rallyes | Nautical Cruises | Ladies of Mercedes-Benz | Sponsor Displays | Welcome Reception | Golf | Grand Awards Banquet

StarFest 2016 will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush Green Valleys and picturesque Hilltop Farms, it's also know 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. This very special place is part of 695,000 acres of green forest - the [Last Green Valley](#) - a national heritage corridor.

### ***Mohegan Sun***

The **host hotel** is Mohegan Sun. Known for World Class Shows, Spas, Restaurants, Shopping, and of course the Casino. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Mystic Seaport and the seashore are close by. Located 2 hours from New York City, 1.5 hours from Boston, and 30 minutes from Hartford and Providence.

### ***Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park***

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, the nation's **oldest Closed Road Course, is the site of all Track Events**. Newly renovated in 2014, it incorporates sections of the original track and new turn complexes over its smooth 1.7 mile layout. Fun for the novice, yet challenging for the expert. With new garages, Pro Shop, classroom, showers and onsite restaurant and championship golf course, it's the premiere motorsports destination in New England. The track is 35 minutes north of the host hotel, Exit 99 off of I-395. For day trippers, it's 2.5 hours from New York City, 50 minutes from Boston, and 30 minutes from Providence, and Hartford.

### ***Concours d'Elegance Presented by Intercity Lines***

The Concours d' Elegance Presented by Intercity Lines, will be **held at The Golden Lamb Buttery in Brooklyn, CT**. A rustic New England Hilltop Farm, with perfect stone walls, views of valleys and hilltops in the distance, it's the perfect backdrop for the Stars to Shine. A short scenic drive on Rt.169, 30 minutes north of the host hotel.

### ***Other StarFest 2016 Events...***

Include Nautical Cruises from Mystic Seaport, The Ladies of Mercedes-Benz event, Golf, and of course the Rallye. **Please [join the Minuteman Section](#) in New England for Starfest 2016!**

## AN AFTERNOON IN CORNING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2015

Meet at Sorge's Restaurant, 68 West Market Street in downtown Corning at noon for lunch. Your choice from their extensive, mostly Italian, menu. Off street parking behind the restaurant. is available.

After eating we'll drive over to the Corning Museum of Glass (free onsite parking) to tour their beautiful new museum space and exhibits of 35 centuries of glass art, history, and technology from ancient to contemporary times. There are glass blowing demonstrations and the opportunity to create your own glass souvenir. At the hands-on Innovation Center you can discover how glass changed the world. Visit the international GlassMarket to shop for art, jewelry, dishware, decorative seasonal glass items and much more. Admission to the Museum is \$16.00 adult; \$13.60 senior and free for children and teens. This is a Mercedes event that older children will enjoy.

Reservations for lunch are necessary. Call Sally McFarland at 607-546-9778 before October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone must remember these bowls? I do! My mother and I had a matching set.



*America's Favorite Dish: Celebrating a Century of Pyrex* commemorates the history of Pyrex brand housewares, developed by Corning Glass Works in 1915. Central to the story of Pyrex are women, traditionally the keepers of the home, who helped Corning designers and engineers develop the products to appeal to the burgeoning women's consumer market. Corning Glass Works combined affordable products and attractive designs with strategic marketing to make Pyrex a mainstay in American homes. Pyrex advertisements, ephemera, and glassware from the combined collections of the Library and Museum will reveal the evolution of this modern American tradition. (Taken from Corning's Website)





**FINGER LAKES SECTION, MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA**  
**2015 ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BELHURST, GENEVA, NY at 1:30 PM**

The election of officers for 2016 will precede the club hosted luncheon. The current slate remains as:

President.....Bob Handzo

Vice-President.....Don Klug

Secretary/Treasurer....Judy Handzo

In addition to the posted slate, nominations from the floor are encouraged for any position as long as the nominee agrees to serve and is present for voting. Being a MBCA Member or Associate Member status is necessary for nomination and is required to vote.

The Treasurer will give a verbal financial report as of November 15, 2015 and copies of the final 2015 yearly report required by National MBCA will be available to any member at the end of January, 2016.

Planning the 2016 calendar of activities will be discussed. Member participation is sought and suggestions encouraged for those months without current plans.

Mercedes-Benz membership anniversary pins, in 5 year increments, will be awarded to those members having 10 years, or more, of continued membership.

Following the meeting, the club will host a luncheon for the attendees. A menu of choices will be e-mailed to all members in late October and reservations are necessary by Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.



## **MENZER'S TOUR OF LETCHWORTH STATE PARK**

**Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

At last year's Annual meeting Menzer Doud (he of the fantasy suggestions for FLMBCA meets) proposed a tour of Letchworth State Park, down there in the southwest corner of Livingston and Wyoming counties, in the autumn. The fantasy here was even getting into Letchworth when color is on the trees. And recently Letchworth was voted as the best State Park in the US. Leaf peepers will be lined up to the PA state line. The smart members of the club suggested a September date, there could be a modicum of fall coloring, less people casually wandering across the road to peer into the vast depths of the Genesee River Gorge and it would be easier to get a reservation to have lunch at the charming Glen Iris Inn. Menzer had to agree. He mapped out a tour, made the arrangements with the Inn and it came to be that 13 of us gathered at the Park Museum on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Another beautiful early fall day, perfect temperature, a touch of the color to come in the flora, good Mercedes friends – it was perfect. Too bad you who didn't join us, you missed a good one. The Museum has a number of interesting Indian relics found in the Park, it was home to several tribes during the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the skull of a huge Mastodon (prior to the Indians of course) and a number of artifacts from the former William Pryor Letchworth estate. Mr. Letchworth owned the land and built the mansion overlooking the Middle Falls that eventually became the Glen Iris. Upon his death all the land was given to the state so everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the incomparable beauty of the gorge. Filled up on all the history, Menzer led us on to the site of Mary Jemison's home. We drove, it was up a big hill. "The White Woman of the Genesee" was captured by the Indians as a young girl and eventually chose to live with them. Her log home was reconstructed from the original logs as was the Indian Council House



nearby. We marveled at the circumference of several of the old oak trees in the area – at least a couple of centuries old.

Hungry now, it was back to the Glen Iris Inn to enjoy a delicious lunch in comfortable surroundings. Then back to the cars to drive the entire length of the Park road passing many areas open to camping, with facilities for tent, trailer and cabin. Lots of grassy or wooded picnic areas, gorge overlook points, trails long and short and 2 large swimming pools are available for visitors (we declined). We ended Menzer's perfect non-fantasy tour at the north end of the Park at the overlook for the Mt. Morris dam. Built by the Army Corp of Engineers over several years in the 40s and 50s it was designed to hold back the flood waters of the Genesee River from inundating the farming areas and towns all the way to the city of Rochester which had prior major damage from the river. You can tour the dam, actually go inside, at certain times on most days – we were too late.

THANK YOU MENZER for a wonderful day! I, for one am looking forward to the next fantasy.



**Cars lined up.....**



**Lunch at Glen Iris Inn**



## New Program: The Ladies of Mercedes



Above are the “Ladies” that attended the *Gemutlichkeit 2015*

The Ladies of Mercedes gives an opportunity for women to relax and join other women across North America as we share in the passion and enthusiasm of leisure time activities, lifestyle programs and charity functions.

“We are celebrating the legacy of generations of enthusiasts whose knowledge and passion for this organization are the building blocks of the club’s foundation and the National Enthusiast Committee. Aiming high, we have combined the wisdom of these members and the energy of new members to create programs for everyone who avidly support all things Mercedes-Benz.”

For more information please contact: Josie Lesler, Director at Large, National Enthusiast Committee Chair, 216-403-2216 or [jql Ester@aol.com](mailto:jql Lester@aol.com)



## ***GEMUTLICHKEIT 2015, Pittsburgh, PA***

Vickie and I thought we would try to go to this year's show as we had enjoyed the last one that was run back in 2010 in Cincinnati. Then I had to make another commitment, so we were not able to get to the opening events and sign up for all the track events. We left Rochester on Thursday morning, and got into some terrible rain storms from Buffalo down to Pittsburgh.

On Friday, I went up to the track and watched the other drivers as they went around and took many photos of the event. The Pittsburgh International Race Complex (Pitts Race) was very nice with great facilities, but I wasn't able to go on the track as I had not gone through the proper training sessions on the previous day. Vickie took the "Ladies of Mercedes" bus tour of the Pittsburgh area which she loved.

Saturday was the day for the Concourse d' Elegance and the weather could not have been better. The Hartwood Acres Mansion grounds were beautiful and spacious.

Saturday night featured the Awards Banquet, presided over by MB CA National President Terrence Kiwala.

Overall, the whole program was great and we look forward to the next time that the Western Reserve Section hosts this event. John Lamb

MBCA National President Terrence Kiwala (left)



## FLMBCA ANNUAL PICNIC AND NEW MEMBER WELCOME

JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

FLMBCA members celebrated our annual Summer Picnic and New Member Welcome on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at Red Kosinskis' home in Scottsville. Beautiful day, good friends, delicious food and drink and Reds' annual surprise – a superb boneless prime rib slow cooked on his unique grill. Who would have wanted a hot dog or hamburger – the beef was delicious! Every year Red treats us to an excellent meat from his grill along with all the proper accompaniments.

We had our annual informal People's Choice car show on the lawn and Larry Hansen, from Penn Yan, was awarded the first place ribbon and a Mercedes-Benz shirt (courtesy of M-B of Rochester) for his beautiful '99 SLK 230 Kompressor in outstanding Firemist Red Metallic. Thank you to all who entered. There were many gorgeous SLs, as usual. Kathy Harradine took home a "purse" of wine for being the longest married woman – to Bob of course.

Four guests were included by the attending members. This year, our annual guest, Bill Clune, brought his newest automotive acquisition, an eye catching brand new red Jaguar sports model. He's not allowed to enter our car show however – he just brings the eye candy.

Plenty of good extras to eat as we talked our way through the afternoon solving problems, giving advice and suggestions for all things Mercedes and concluding the feast with homemade ice creams. Espresso (the favorite), strawberry and vanilla topped off the day of Mercedes comradery. Have I mentioned the word red enough?

Don't miss this fun day next year, we always look forward to another surprise from Red's grill spit.



*This is Larry Henson with his 1999 SLK which was the people's choice at the FLMBCA July picnic (left), and this is Bill Wayman with a blue 2005 E-Class sedan (right).*



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