



Finger Lakes Section

TRI-STAR

Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, 3RD QUARTER 2016

Our summer highlight was, once again, the annual picnic at Red Kosinski's home in Scottsville, NY. If you weren't there, plan to attend in July 2017. We always have a great time. **StarFest** in August was an "eye opener" since it was the first time Judy and I attended this National event. We hadn't imagined the magnitude of the Mohegan Sun complex in Uncasville, CT, the host hotel for the 4 days of activities. We enjoyed the track events at Thompson Motorsports Park and agreed that the Concours d'Elegance, on the final day, had a field of absolutely magnificent Mercedes. I was impressed by the vendors present at both the track and the Concours ready and willing to share their technical expertise and some product samples. Next **StarFest** will be held in 2018 and will include a visit to the Mercedes-Benz assembly complex in Alabama. I'm looking forward to that! Thanks must be given to Rachael Spence and the Roberts Communication advertising organization for putting the Finger Lakes idea for the **StarFest** brochure ad into reality. Special appreciation goes to Vickie Patridge for volunteering her newsletter editorial skills for the past 6 years (what would we have done without her?). And thanks also to Dave Kliment, our Webmaster, who is the final word on the Newsletter before it is emailed and is always available to correct all computer mistakes made by the President and the Secretary. Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, 2016 at Belhurst Castle in Geneva. Please plan to attend for elections, event suggestions for 2017 and lunch on the Club. More information available closer to the date. We would like to see you there.

Bob

Welcome New Members, 4th Quarter 2016

Stephen Austin, Macedon, NY

Michael Gambuzza, Syracuse, NY

Cynthia and Randall Johnson, Fairport, NY



Finger Lakes Section – MBCA

Upcoming Events Schedule 2016/2017

NOVEMBER: Sunday November 13th, 1:30 PM - Annual Meeting and election of officers for 2017 followed by a Club hosted luncheon at Belhurst Castle, Route 14, Geneva. Ideas for activities for the next year will be sought and discussed. If you wish to be considered for a Board position, please contact Vice-President Don Klug to place your name on the ballot and you must be present for voting at the meeting. Further information and a menu of luncheon choices will be emailed to all members at the end of October.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2017: No meetings or events are scheduled. You should be in Florida or the French coast, maybe the south Pacific and your Mercedes should be resting in a heated garage wearing a car cover.

FEBRUARY 2017: We usually have a mid-winter get together in February but attendance is spotty due to weather and vacations. What if we gather at some place like the Culinary Center in Canandaigua on short email notice?

MARCH 2017: Still could be a little early for a tech session, April would be better. Need ideas!

FLMBCA Annual Picnic

Sunday July 10th



Another perfect day for our annual July picnic and new member welcome at the home of Red Kosinski in Scottsville. Every year attendees supply appetizers, salads and side dishes while Red cooks a big beef roast on his special grill. This year it was brisket accompanied by rye bread,



sauerkraut and mustard. WOW! Was that good! There's always burgers and hots for the purists. A big selection of salads, both green and fruit, Kathy Harradine's superb baked beans (cleaned out a large baking pan full) and beer, wine and soft drinks followed by three flavors of homemade ice cream rounded out the menu. Red's friends, Bill Clune and Bob Hyatt joined us again. This year Bill brought a gorgeous Jaguar, leaving the newest addition, a Porsche Cayenne at home. Always something new every picnic. We don't let Bill enter our People's Choice car show - that's for Mercedes-Benz only and he hasn't shown up in one yet. The cars were lined up on the lawn, each bearing a profile of model, year and owner's name and we voted on paper ballots. First place winner was the beautiful 1998 S500 Midnight Blue sedan owned by Oscar and Peggy Raffo. This year's prize was a pop-up picnic

table with drink holders from Mercedes-Benz. We all wanted one after Oscar set it up. Prizes were also awarded for the longest and the newest memberships. New member Seanelle Tracy and her lovely daughter Amaih joined us a little late but we made sure they had a warm welcome to the Finger Lakes Section. Of course, all eighteen of us solved most problems involving Mercedes by sharing queries and stories throughout the day. Do make plans to come to next year's picnic, it's always such a good time and Red says he'll roast another rump in 2017.

Judy Handzo



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StarFest 2016



Bob and I attended the National MBCA **StarFest** celebration in Connecticut on August 4, 5 and 6. Don and Betsy Klug joined us on this adventure. And it was an adventure just getting to Uncasville and the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino. The Thruway was our choice to travel, Handzos from Canandaigua, the Klugs from Syracuse and little did we know just how much time we would be spending admiring the extensive work being done east of Albany. Miles and miles of backed up or slow moving traffic. But we did arrive finally and checked into our motel in New London and headed north to Mohegan Sun to pick-

up our **StarFest** programs and all the additional information concerning the locations of the track events and concours. That hotel/casino is a feast for the eyes, huge, colorful, hundreds of guest rooms, packed with visitors for the day or week, the gaming areas wrap all around the building, there are bars and restaurants everywhere you look - it was definitely FLMBCA in wonderland. Betsy tried her luck on the One Arm Bandits, won a few dollars and then lost it trying to build her fortune.



This must be the most common outcome for a majority of the players. Later that afternoon we drove north to Thompson Speedway, site of all of the track events, to check out that venue for a longer visit the following day. I hesitate to describe a racetrack as "charming", but it is. The close-by historic village of Thompson lends the area a bucolic feeling, the track is small but has an interesting configuration, there's lots of grass, the garage area is clean and neat. We stayed in New London hoping to have time to enjoy the Thames and Mystic River areas, which we didn't really have time to do. We did find the most popular open air restaurant right on the water and indulged in lobster rolls, clam fritters and all things New England. Friday we drove back to the track and checked out the vendors, had a tour through the MB based Airstream camper. It's really first class but nowhere near "roomy", and visited with friends we've met through the Club. Bev Basinski, wife of Niagara Section President Ed Yungbluth, had her 3 day old 2016 C300 4-cylinder turbo (cardinal red) on the track. She praised the handling and speed of the snazzy new car. We enjoyed lunch at the trackside restaurant which



is also the watering hole for the adjacent Thompson golf course. We returned to the Mohegan Sun, where they all but insist that you use the valet parking, to soak in the atmosphere and enjoy one of the watering holes. We found bliss in the Irish Pub - one round only. Back at the motel we noticed Jim Roberts, Eastern Regional Director and part of the crew that runs the MB/Lotus day at Watkins Glen in conjunction with FLMBCA, and we invited him to join us for dinner. We found that Friday night in New London is a zoo. No hope of going back to the restaurant on the water and little hope of finding one with an open table on the main drag. But with enough inquiries and a very long walk we found the "Social" restaurant and it was perfect. Good food, great conversation and it made a perfect Friday evening. Saturday plans were to drive the half hour to the site of the concours and check it out before heading home. Brooklyn, CT is located near the Rhode Island border and not that far from Massachusetts. A beautiful drive but slightly more than a half hour. Charming, historic countryside and the site was on a grassy hill overlooking a pond and big red barn (now a restaurant) on a former farm. We've never seen so many absolutely beautiful Mercedes in one place before. New, old, classic,

sedans, coupes, SLs, cabrios, AMGs, it was there! One classic arrived from a museum near Boston. Had a little trouble starting up for the judges but finally made it to the appreciation of the onlookers. We could have continued to drool and be immensely impressed by every automobile but it was time to head home. We bought a Garmin several weeks before we left for Connecticut thinking it might be useful since we would be all over the Eastern part of a state we're not familiar with and, believe me, we'd still be driving around trying to reach the Mass Pike if we didn't have it. Must be that helpful road signs and street names or numbers are not compatible with the historic charm.

We had a good time and the next **StarFest** will be held in Alabama, Jim Roberts to head up that crew, and will feature a tour of the Mercedes-Benz facility nearby. Hmmmmm, 'gotta keep that Garmin in good shape.

Judy Handzo

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.



An Autumn Visit to Taughannock Falls



Well, maybe not so much color and not so much "falls" but 13 of us had a wonderful adventure on Sunday, October 2. Thanks to the management skills of Sally McFarland who planned this afternoon, we met at 1:PM at the Taughannock Falls Inn, a lovely Victorian Inn opposite the State Park on Cayuga Lake. The Inn has been recently renovated and offers a Sunday brunch with an excellent selection of starters, breakfast items, veggies, meats and especially generous fancy desserts. Also



bottomless Mimosas. We were happy to welcome newer members Dave and Lynn Schultz and Karl and Paula Gauss who joined us - Kathy and Bob Harradine, Peggy and Oscar Raffo, Joe and Mary Burnash (good to see Joe after too many years) and three Handzos, we brought along Gillian, our photographer for the day, rounding out our crew. After we ate so much we really needed some exercise. One of the trails to the upper falls started right from the front of the Inn. However, the trail is slightly more than one mile round trip and none of us was foolish enough to think we could walk that far. Back to the cars and a drive up to the top of the overlook to view Lower Falls was the order of the day. I was impressed that there was any water at all flowing. Certainly not the display you see on the Park photos but enough to imagine what the real thing looked like. And even though the splendor of Autumnal color was paltry, there were a few maples and some weeds trying very hard. I'm sure all will be in order as the fall progresses. Gill was adamant that we do some hiking so when we left the overlook we parked near the start of the South Rim Trail and probably walked about a half mile before

it got muddy and further away from the Taughannock Creek to see anything interesting. I'd like to go back another day and walk the Gorge Trail that takes you right up to the base of the Falls - after we've had some decent rain. A stop at Sheldrake Point Winery was in order on our way home - always makes for a perfect day out!

Judy Handzo

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