



Finger Lakes Section

TRI-STAR

Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

Fairport, NY - Volume 5 - Number 1 - January/February/March 2016

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

Vickie Patridge
100 Sweets Corners Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450
315-576-6407
vpatridge@netzero.com

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

President's Message, First Quarter 2016

2015 has been a most gratifying year for FLMBCA. We've had well attended fun and enlightening events, most of them at the suggestion and leadership of members and a growing Club covering the area between Rochester to Syracuse, north to the St. Lawrence and south to the Southern Tier. Our membership now totals 121 and I expect the number to increase with the growing popularity of the wonderful cars we love. Hopefully what gatherings have been scheduled currently and those to be added will continue to interest you all to join us, meet new friends and explore our beautiful Finger Lakes area.

A nominating committee will be established to conduct a search for new blood to serve on the Executive Board for 2017. I have been President for 4 years and it's time to step down and elect someone with fresh interests and new directions. Others must get involved to continue the growth of FLMBCA.

At the Annual Meeting we discussed the possibility of helping to support a local charity in the Rochester area – "Quad A for Kids", with their project based learning activity in an after school program of building and racing Soap Box Derby cars with help from donors such as Mercedes-Benz of Rochester. FLMBCA can assist these students in learning the basic skills of workmanship and enjoying the spirit of competition and to realize the perseverance required to bring a project to completion. Let me know if this is something you'd like to see the Club become involved with.

Don't forget that STARFEST 2016, August 3-6, will be held in Connecticut, hosted by the Minuteman Section. Close enough for our Section to join in the many activities be it track, rally, concours, a cruise from Mystic Seaport, an event especially for the Ladies and, of course, the casinos in the host hotel Mohegan Sun. This gathering is the best way to meet other owners and to enjoy the myriad of activities with your M-B. You never know what you might learn.

I hope to see more members, especially those who've joined recently, at one of our monthly gatherings. We welcome new ideas for activities. Judy has several ideas but would like offer them to someone else to plan and lead. She has many home projects in different stages of completion and is determined to finish every one of them this year. (Good luck there.)

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Bob

FINGER LAKES SECTION - MBCA
UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE 2016



JANUARY: No meeting. We're still sunning in the Caribbean or possibly skiing in Vail. (Probably shoveling snow in Honeoye.)

FEBRUARY: Annual winter get together at the Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 North Clinton St., Syracuse on **Sunday, February 21st at 1:00PM**. E-mail with info and directions will be sent 2 weeks prior. Here's a gathering convenient for our Syracuse area members – hope we see lots of you!

MARCH: Need ideas, nothing scheduled so far.

APRIL: Sunday, April 24th, 1:00pm. An afternoon of answers to all your automotive/technical or just about anything else questions with our Guru, Bill Wayman. Bill welcomes us to his home and garages in Ontario where his many projects are on display. E-mail with directions will be sent 2 weeks prior

MAY: Sunday, May 22nd, 1:00 to 3:00PM . Car Show season is fast approaching and Simon Pontin of Finger Lakes Vintage and Sports Car in Shortsville, will guide you in preparing a winner with his instructions on washing, waxing and detailing areas you never thought about, with the use of proper products. E-mail with directions will be sent 2 weeks prior.

JUNE: Sunday, June 19th Father's Day Car Show, Sonnenberg Gardens, Canandaigua. A large but low key show. We share a picnic with the Niagara Section MBCA. Lots to do on site for the entire family. More information will be in next newsletter and check out sonnenberg.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND. Mercedes-Benz and Lotus at Watkins Glen. Your opportunity to learn to be a better driver and to enjoy your car safely at speed. Full information and registration will be available within the next month or two and will be available in the next newsletter.

JULY: SUNDAY, JULY 10TH, 1:00PM. Annual picnic at Red Kosinski's home, Scottsville, NY. More information in the next newsletter.



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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

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 vpatriidge@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 / 585-367-2815.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, 1st Quarter 2016

Norman and Cynthia Ahlheim, Chaumont, NY 1967 250SL

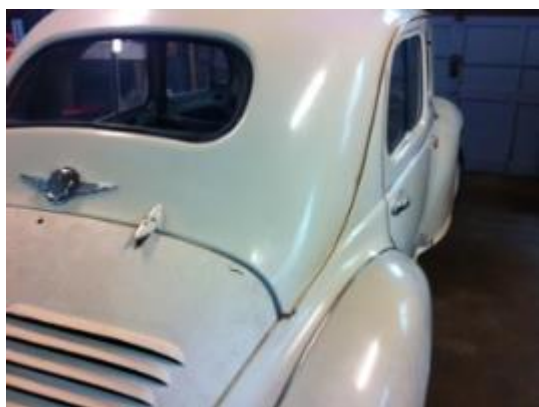
Seanelle Tracy, West Henrietta, NY

David Shultz, Manlius, NY 1983 300TD

Carlo Alberto, Copenhagen, NY

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AN AFTERNOON IN CORNING, NY

OCTOBER 18TH, 2015



Sally McFarland did it again. She suggests the most interesting places for the members to enjoy on a day out with FLMBCA. Bob and I, Tom and Marilyn Hamilton (so nice to see Tom again and to meet Marilyn), Oscar and Peggy Raffo, Red Kosinski and Nellie Burke along with Sally and Don met for lunch at Sorge's Restaurant on W. Market St. in Corning on a chilly Sunday. While known for homemade Italian specialities, Sorges's also features a full menu of delicious entrees which we *all* thoroughly enjoyed.

On to the highlight of the afternoon – touring the Corning Museum of Glass. It's about 6 years since we've been there and that was with our grandkids who were thrilled watching glass blowers at work and to hand etch a glass souvenir. A lot has changed since then. The museum space has been redesigned and five large, light filled Contemporary Art Galleries have been added. Astounding pieces of hand blown glass figures from 1990 to 2015 are on display, some so huge only 3 or 4 fit into one gallery.

Amazing what a creative glass artist can do with something as ancient and simple as molten sand. We watched hot glass demonstrations in the new amphitheater.

Occasionally an audience member was chosen to take home their choice of the selected display pieces. Not one of us was lucky enough to be chosen, unfortunately.

There are glassbreaking, optical fiber and flameworking demonstrations throughout the day in the new Innovation Center. My favorite area is the 35 Centuries of Glass Gallery.

It's the largest area, rearranged to have you walk in a circle beginning with samples of ancient glass and moving through the centuries to modern glass. There's also a collection of glass paperweights and exhibitions that change through the seasons. The stained glass windows are spectacular.

At the end of the day, after a visit to the extensive gift shop (I've always wanted one of those glass pumpkins), we all agreed we had a wonderful time together and look forward to another Sally McFarland tour suggestion. I happen to know there is at least one in the 2016 offering.....

Judy Handzo

FINGER LAKES SECTION

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, November 15th, 2015

The Conservatory room at Belhurst Castle in Geneva, NY was, once again, the site of FLMBCA's 2015 annual meeting on Sunday, November 15th. Members present included Carl Prouty, Mel and Alice Dillon, Oscar and Peggy Raffo, Simon Pontin, Gene Eng, Bob and Kathy Harradine, Noal White, Doug and Bea Archer, Jan and Larry Driscoll, Bill Wayman, Rena and Menzer Doud, Red Kosinski, Bob, Judy and Gillian Handzo and guests Nelly Burke, Gary and Charlotte Buehler.

President Bob Handzo called the meeting to order at 2:PM. The first order of business was the annual election of officers. Bob Harradine presented the slate: President - Bob Handzo, Vice President - Don Klug, Secretary/Treasurer - Judy Handzo and asked for additional nominations from the floor. As there were none, voting was by a show of hands and the presented slate was reelected. Board appointees for 2016 will remain as Vickie Patridge, Newsletter Editor and Dave Kliment, Webmaster.

Bob thanked all who attended and showed their support of the Board. He introduced our newest sponsor, Simon Pontin, owner of Finger Lakes Vintage and Sports Cars in Shortsville, NY and asked him for a brief description of the business and services available to our members. Volunteers who suggested and hosted 2015 club events were thanked - Bill Wayman, April Tech Session; Sally McFarland, May Curtiss Museum visit and October Corning Glass tour; Mel Dillon, instructor at July Glen driving event in conjunction with the Lotus Club; Red Kosinski, July annual picnic host and Menzer Doud, September Letchworth tour. Red was awarded the FLMBCA "Member of the Year" National citation plaque honoring him for all the years he has opened his home to our members for the annual picnic, providing us with delicious beef roasts and letting us park on his lawns for the club concours. Silver M-B Christmas ornaments were presented to the other hosts.

Bob mentioned the need to have new faces on the Executive Board and announced that 2016 would be his last year as President. He has proposed a nominating committee to solicit members Board interest and to oversee elections done electronically and with paper ballots for those without email. V-P Don Klug, not present today, had spoken with Bob about the possibility of having two members act as Vice-Presidents, one covering the Rochester area and the other covering the Syracuse area in an effort to appeal to more members in FLMBCA's large area. As information is gathered all members will be kept informed. Suggestions are welcomed.

"StarFest" hosted by the Minuteman Section will be held in Connecticut from August 3rd through the 6th headquartered at the Mohegan Sun Resort. Support from all Northeast Region Sections is sought and Bob encouraged our members to attend. Between the driving events at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, the concours, rally (available on several different days), a tour and cruise from Mystic Seaport, special events for the ladies and all the diversions offered at Mohegan Sun there is something for every attendee. Visit the "Starfest" 2016 website.

Bob reported on the progress that National is making in launching the Drupal 7 platform. It should be ready in 2 to 3 months and will offer webinars for members and webmaster training to update websites and event reports.

FLMBCA has been approached by "Quad A for Kids", a project of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. They offer after-school programs and activities for intercity children. They are in need of sponsors for their Soap Box Derby program that teaches basic skills of workmanship, spirit of competition and perseverance. Not only do they need donations but they need help with building the cars. Bob is working with Mercedes-Benz of Rochester for a plan where the club and the dealership can participate in helping them reach the World Championships in Akron Ohio in 2016. We'll need some volunteers from FLMBCA if we go forward.

Judy reported that the current membership totals 121 with 14 new members joining from January 1st to October 15th. She reminded everyone to take applications with them today and for each new member they sponsor they get an extra month of their membership. As Treasurer, she reported the club checkbook balance was \$3,290. The biggest contributor is membership rebates from National which totaled \$1,129. to date followed by our advertisers \$800. The biggest expenditure is the annual picnic and the annual meeting. A full 2015 financial report will be available to any member requesting one in January when it is also sent to National.

Membership anniversary pins, awarded for 5 years or more of continued membership, in increments of 5 years, were awarded to Mel Dillon, 15 years and sent to Joseph Burnash, Larry Hansen and Garth Laidlaw all for 15 years also.

The floor was opened up for discussion of events and gatherings in the coming year. Extra effort to be made to find venues that will appeal to all members since we cover such a big area of western and central NY. February is the first month of the year we meet, hopefully without snow, and traditionally has been a luncheon get-together. The Spaghetti Factory in Syracuse has been chosen as the site in 2016 on Feb. 21st. Menzer mentioned a new hotel available in Clayton as a possible late September headquarters for a weekend getaway. A tech session at Simon Pontin's business stressing the proper way to prepare your Mercedes for the car show season. This would be a good May activity with the Sonnenberg Car Show coming up the following month. Mel mentioned that The Little Speed Shop in Rochester sponsors "Cars and Coffee" on Saturday or Sunday mornings (mainly for BMW and Porsche owners) and we could do something similar and move the site to different areas. Gillian reported that Leaf and Bean in Chili has something similar for motorcyclists and it's important that a large parking area be available. Jan Driscoll suggested the Seneca Falls area offers a charming village to explore, the surviving sites of the Women's Rights movement, and the historic Gould Hotel (remember "It's a Wonderful Life"?) offering good food. Mel also added that at opening day of the track at Watkins Glen on April 16th the BMW club offers to take you for a run around the track, no helmet necessary or for \$25 for 3 laps drive your Mercedes if you want to get a feel about taking a run with the fast paced Lotus Club on June 22nd.

50/50 tickets were given to each attendee as they signed in for the meeting and we ended our afternoon with awarding some gifts donated by Mercedes-Benz of Rochester. The dealership also gave us gel pens to hand out to everyone along with an embroidered MBCA patch and a static cling car decal from FLMBCA.

Meeting concluded at 4:PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Handzo, Secretary

2015 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD PINS 15 YEARS:

Joseph Burnash

Mel Dillon

Larry Hansen

Garth Laidlaw



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

**Mark your calendars for StarFest® 2016!
Wednesday August 3rd- Saturday August 6th, 2016**

The Minuteman Section invites you to New England for 2016 StarFest®! 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.

For more information e-mail: Mercedes Club of
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Vickie Patridge, Editor
 100 Sweets Corners Road
 Fairport, NY 14450

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