



Finger Lakes Section

TRI-STAR

Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

Fairport, NY Volume 4 Number 1 January/February/March 2015

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 1st QUARTER 2015

Happy 2015! Thank you for your support in electing me your President again. The rest of the slate was also approved for another year. We will continue to try to make FLMBCA a club where you feel proud to be a member.

I feel I'm redundant here since I wrote about the same topic in the last issue of our newsletter but it's a recurring item here in the Presidential Palace. *The Star* publication has had a number of technical articles sharing the experiences of searching for a previously owned Mercedes-Benz. What to look for, what is fixable, what is worth restoring and what to avoid. We've received inquiries from members and non-members asking for help in locating a buyer for a car that has been in their family for a number of years. This task is usually given to the family member who has no interest or resources to repair or restore or the time and knowledge of where to find a potential buyer. We're happy to advertise this potential beauty in our quarterly *Tri-Star*. We ask for a description, a photo or two and contact information to spur the interest of our members. We want to keep our Classified Column working and the more we have to advertise the more interest we will generate. Do you want to rid yourself of that Nash Rambler? Vickie Patridge is the person to contact.

vpatriidge@netzero.com

A tech session is scheduled for April 26th at Bill Wayman's home garages. We're hoping for no snow this year. Plan to attend this informal gathering with your technical problems and join in the wide range of topics.

We hope to enlarge the attendance at the June 21st Father's Day Car Show at Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua. Finger Lakes and Niagara Sections plan this enjoyable outing together and it's always a good time. FL had a good showing of M-Bs last year. SLs rule! We're working on a Mercedes surprise and we'll keep you up to date as we move forward.

We're always looking for new ideas for gatherings from our members. We need to know what will interest you so you'll join an outing and meet wonderful people who appreciate their automobile and their friendships within the FLMBCA group. Call or e-mail me with your suggestions.

585-367-2815/handzo912@frontiernet.net

All the best - health, happiness and prosperity in this New Year. Bob

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, FIRST QUARTER 2015

Tom Druzynski, West Henrietta, NY

Gregory Leska, Owego, NY – 1987 560SL

FINGER LAKES SECTION - MBCA
UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE 2015



JANUARY 2015 – No meeting.

FEBRUARY 22ND – Annual mid-winter meet at Beef and Brew in Geneva, NY at 1:00 PM. Complete information will be e-mailed to all members in early February. This replaces our usual winter bar-b-que gathering.

MARCH - TBD. Suggestions?

APRIL 26TH – Tech session at Bill Wayman's at 1:PM. Full information will be in the 2nd quarter issue of *TRI-STAR*.

MAY - TBD. Suggestions?

JUNE 21ST – Father's Day Car Show with the Niagara Section at Sonnenberg Gardens in Canandaigua. More information in the 2nd quarter issue of *TRI-STAR*.

JULY 1ST – Mercedes-Benz/Lotus driver education day at Watkins Glen. Learn to drive your car at speed safely. Open to all Northeast Region members. More information will follow as we continue to schedule this event. Call Bob Handzo if you have questions. 585-367-2815.

JULY 12TH – Annual Picnic and New Member Welcome at Red Kozinski's in Scottsville.

Other than the Annual Meeting being held in November again there are no other firm events on our calendar. There have been rumors about another weekend event in September but nothing is scheduled at this time.

Need suggestions and help here. If it were up to Judy we'd be driving to visit old historic houses and sites but we did that for a couple of years and it's not everyone's idea of excitement. Actually, a visit to the Jell-O Museum (yes, pudding) in Leroy was the most popular outing. We even had Niagara Section members join the group. Wonders never cease!



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CLASSIFIEDS:



For Sale by Owner:

1995 E320 Cabriolet. Brilliant Emerald Green over Beige leather. Concours ready. New engine wiring harness, no head gasket leaks, harmonic balance replaced. Pictures available. 123K miles. Purchased in Vero Beach, FL with 90k miles. Make offer.

Roy O. Kuck (716) 549-1590 roj67@msn.com

FOR SALE: 1967 250S. Has been in the same family since new. Recently driven and suspect valve wear. Some rust. Interior in good condition. Owner unable to provide time and mechanical interest in restoration. A fair price is requested. Pictures and further details are available. Jonathan Gates, Nunda. C:412-513-6524 or wanso@frontiernet.net.

Do you have something to sell or something you want?
E-Mail Vickie at vpatriidge@netzero.com.

2014 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD PINS

10 YEARS:

Stanley Avery
Paul Knickerbocker
Thomas Maroney
Barbara-Ann Mattle
Helmuth Reinhardt

20 YEARS:

Jeffrey Miller

25 YEARS:

William Barrett
Robert Kreger
Gene Long

30 YEARS:

Michael Loefstedt
Ronald Palm

Charlotte Wahl has been a member since June 6th, 1977. She holds the longest membership in FLMBCA – 37 years

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.





**FINGER LAKES SECTION
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
Minutes of the Annual Meeting, November 16th, 2014**

The Conservatory dining room at Belhurst in Geneva was, again, the site of FLMBCA's annual meeting. In attendance were Doug and Bea Archer, Carl Prouty, Red Kozinski and guest Nellie Burke, Oscar and Peggy Raffo (new members), Don and Betsy Klug, Bob and Kathy Harradine, Rena and Menzer Doud, Bill Wayman and guest Rick Lux, Bob and Judy Handzo.

President Bob Handzo called the meeting to order at 1:45PM. As the first order of business he asked Menzer to conduct the annual election of officers. Menzer presented the slate (President-Bob Handzo, Vice President-Don Klug, Secretary/Treasurer-Judy Handzo), asked for nominations from the floor, there were none, then asked for a show of hands to approve the presented slate. The vote was unanimous in favor. Board appointees for 2015 will remain the same as 2014 - Vickie Patridge as Newsletter Editor and Dave Kliment as Webmaster.

Bob thanked the 2014 Board members for their involvement and assistance, those members who suggested, planned and carried through on their event suggestions (Bill Wayman, Garage Tech; Red Kozinski, Annual Picnic; Sally McFarland, Elmira Tour and Red Newt Luncheon; Carl Prouty, Canandaigua Lake Cruise), our advertising supporters (Mercedes-Benz of Rochester and Dunn Tire) and all the members who joined in enjoying the events and meetings. Bob mentioned the need to recruit more advertisers who could be of interest and use by members, not necessarily being automotive related. Ad price sheets are available for members who have any possibilities in mind. The need for more input from the membership was stressed, particularly for monthly get together ideas and follow through.

Bob also spoke of the continued growth of FLMBCA with 23 new members added since the 2013 Annual Meeting giving us a current total of 124, the highest membership the Club has ever enjoyed. Membership applications are available to all members for handing out to Mercedes owners interested in joining.

Bob and Kathy Harradine were named "Members of the Year" for their support of events and their friendly willing helpfulness. They were presented with a well-deserved citation.

Judy gave a short financial report. The club treasury has a balance of \$2,515.57 as of 11/16/14. A full financial report for 2014 will be submitted to the National Office in January and will be available to any member who requests a copy.



Luncheon choices and drinks were served and we continued the conversation regarding 2015 events. Menzer suggested another weekend gathering, this time at Letchworth State Park in Livingston County. Plenty of scenery to enjoy and places to explore at "The Grand Canyon of the East". The charming Glen Iris Inn, overlooking the Upper and Middle Falls could be the headquarters. Date suggestions included early Autumn, before the leaf crowds or May/June when the Genesee River is higher and the Mt. Morris Dam gets a workout. Menzer will gather more information and we'll be looking for membership help and interest in attending. Bill Wayman agreed to host another tech session in his garages. After the "snow-out" this past March he suggested a date later in the Spring/Summer. This is a must attend for members with problems and questions regarding their car. The Annual Picnic and new member welcome will be at Red Kozinski's on Sunday, July 12th. We can't be at a better site and thank Red, once again, for letting the club overrun his lawn. The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held on a Sunday in November.

Judy encouraged everyone to take some of the M-B literature brought to the meeting. Although the brochures are not current their glossy pages are filled with superb photos worthy of framing and statistics of the various models. The recipients of the membership anniversary pins were announced. The list is printed elsewhere in this issue. Charlotte Wahl holds the longest membership at 37 years. We encouraged everyone to order a nametag from National and wear it at FLMBCA and other car club events. No more "Hello, my name is..." stickers. The new FLMBCA heavy metal license plate holders were available for purchase at \$22.00 each at the meeting and can be mailed to members at a slight additional charge.

Our annual February get together to kick off a new year of Mercedes events will be held on Sunday February 22nd at the Beef and Brew in Geneva. We are foregoing the usual bar-be-que to enjoy British and Irish fare and a huge list of imported and domestic beers and wines. The new venue met with approval from the members present.

The meeting concluded at 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Handzo, Secretary





A Mercedes Tour from Stuttgart, Germany!

When I had the opportunity to purchase a new Mercedes Benz E350 coupe back in 2010, one of the first things I did was to join the MBCA. One of the first things I heard about from them was information about this wonderful trip that they ran in the spring and fall each year to Stuttgart to visit a number of the museums, restoration centers, design centers, factories and test facilities in that area. I was thinking about this trip when, at an annual physical, I asked my doctor if there would be any problem with a 14 hour plane trip, and the other strains I would put on myself. He then informed me that he wanted to talk to me about going in for open heart surgery! So that put off the trip until this past September, but I really think it was well worth the wait!

The trip is set up and escorted by Jim O'Sullivan. He has been doing this for years and knows his way around the area very well. Each time he selects different places to go to, depending on availability, but the attractions are always of great interest to MB owners and car enthusiasts in general.

Everyone meets up at the hotel (in this case, the Maritim in Stuttgart) on a Monday evening for the welcome dinner, where all of the itinerary was laid out for the tourists.



Then on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, we spent the entire day on a bus (Mercedes, of course!) driving all over the area seeing many fascinating sights, and eating wonderful local food! For those 4 days, it was somewhat hectic, but the amount of stuff that we saw and did was amazing. Saturday was open for people to do what they wished, and by then, we had a better idea of just what Stuttgart had available that we wanted to go see! Then came the farewell dinner, and everyone went off their separate ways, which, for some, was a Danube River cruise!!

I swore I was not going to spend the entire trip looking through the viewfinder of my camera, but I still took over 300 shots, so you can imagine how hard it was to cut those down for this newsletter!

Overall, it was an amazing tour, and I know that both Vickie and I are looking forward to a time when we can do it again, maybe in 2016!!

Sincerely, John Lamb



HUDSON-MOHAWK / FINGER LAKES MBCA

FALL RALLY AND WINERY TOUR

When Ron Tanner, past President of Hud-Mo, contacted us this past March concerning helping to sponsor a weekend event in October featuring the scenery and amenities of our beautiful Finger Lakes area, we readily agreed. We furnished names of centrally located area hotels to investigate and we contacted National to apply for a grant of \$500. for sponsoring a regional event. We would also plan and run the Saturday afternoon wine tasting tour.

October 25-27 was the chosen weekend and the Ramada in Geneva was selected as the group headquarters. Invitations went out to all Sections in the Northeast Region and was announced in *The Star* upcoming events column. In the meantime, Bob and I made several visits to the wineries on the west side of Seneca Lake in an attempt to choose four for our visitors to tour (this was quite a chore). We learned that October is one of the busiest months for touring, that many establishments will not accept a bus tour and groups are strictly on a limited time allotment. We rented a 34 seat "luxury" bus from Golden Memories in Rochester for the group and settled on four wineries: White Springs, Fox Run, Anthony Road and the newly owned and renamed Villa Bellangelo. All received superlative reviews from the attendees with many of them toting cases back to the bus.

Preceding Saturday's activities most of the group convoyed from the Albany area on Friday, lunching at Dinosaur Bar-B-Q in Syracuse before reaching the Ramada in time for a Meet and Greet reception. Saturday morning a rally through the eastern Finger Lakes was held and before the wine tour all received a box lunch to eat on the bus or at one of the picnic areas at the wineries. We returned the exhausted group to the Ramada in time to spruce up for cocktails and dinner featuring rally awards and Mercedes stories. I understand that on Sunday morning a group traveled north on Route 14 to visit the outlet shops at Waterloo just to cap off the weekend.



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