



# Nickel City Star

JUNE 3, 2009

SUMMER 2009

[www.mbca.org/niagara](http://www.mbca.org/niagara)

**Coming Events:** See page 2

## Tech Inspection 2009

The highly trained and experienced technicians of **Mercedes Benz of Buffalo** gave us a good look at our cars - from the bottom up. This session was provided as a courtesy, for club members only. Thank you, to our dealership! Numerous cars were inspected, limited only by time and capacity, and many members simply stopped in to watch the session and learn about the cars. It was nice to see several first time participants.

Refreshments were served up by Niagara Section members, most notably Becky Reed, who prepared both breakfast pastries and a full lunch for everyone. A 'smart car' showcase was in full swing also, and many attendees were able to experience these wonders of safety and economy first hand.

Niagara Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America



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## 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR

- **June 21 – Father's Day Car Show at Sonnenberg Gardens, See page 4 for entry & info.**
- **July 19 — Chautauqua Antique Car Club and Viking picnic—See below.**
- **August 9 - BBQ and New Members Meet and Greet Party\***
- September 13—Schlachtfest at Spring Garden
- September 15—Monthly meetings resume at the Buffalo Brew Pub, Main near Transit
- **September 19—Oktoberfest car show in Hamburg - 3 to 10 p.m.**
- **October - Fun Road Rally\***
- **November— Glenn Curtis Air museum tour & dinner\***
- **December - Annual Christmas Party and Charity event\***

*\*Event details and date to be finalized*

These and other events are in the planning stages... watch for future announcements!

*Members of all sections and guests are always invited to Niagara Section events.*

*Details of most events will appear in future issues of this newsletter or sent via email and/or posted at [www.mbca.org/niagara](http://www.mbca.org/niagara). Or you may call Ed at 716-873-9226 for more information.*

Check The Star and [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) for national events listings.

### Event

## Chautauqua Antique Car Club Tour, Car Show and Picnic

On July 19, we will caravan (details to follow by email) to the Cummins Diesel Engine Plant near Jamestown NY for a tour beginning at 11 a.m. The tour is free and should last about 60 to 90 minutes. From Cummins, we travel to the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club and arrive just after 1 p.m.

At the Lakewood R & G Club chalet we will have our own area to get together. There will be an auto show and we expect 100 to 200 vehicles. We will have our area to display our vehicles. The chicken barbecue dinner buffet will be served at about 2:00.

**Cost: \$17 per person. Additional: cash bar.**

**Please respond by July 10th... Checks payable to: NIAGARA SECTION MBCA**

**Mail checks, with number of attendees, to: Herb Fischer 235 High Park Blvd., Amherst, NY 14226**



**H**ere comes summer! But first, looking back at spring events, I want to recognize those who worked hard to make these events so successful: Mike Repko, Ed Yungbluth, Bill Fix, Becky Reed, Mike Hopkins and his excellent service professionals at Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo.

In addition to the numerous car shows and cruise nights, there is a lot of Mercedes Club activity on the way. Check the list on page 2, and be aware that even more events are still in the works. We will notify all members in three ways: this newsletter, our website, and email from time to time. Please make sure we have your email address in our list. If you have not received an email from me in the past month, it means I don't have an accurate address for you. Send changes to me at [genelong@verizon.net](mailto:genelong@verizon.net). Thanks!

We have festive plans for June - car show at Sonnenberg Gardens, July - joint event with the Chautauqua Antique Car Club, August - "New Members Meet & Greet" BBQ, ...and even more for the fall. We always need volunteers to help with organizing events, and committee members too. It's fun to get involved! Attend and bring friends! And remember, you don't have to own a Mercedes to be a member...

Lastly, it is not too early to start thinking about our election of officers coming up in October this year. Please consider a leadership position in the Niagara Section. The work isn't strenuous but it is rewarding! For more information, contact any current officer.

## Summer Car Shows 2009

This chart is provided for information about local car shows featuring foreign makes, as a courtesy. Details subject to change, so please check with the organizers of the shows for more information. All phone numbers are 716 area code unless otherwise noted.

Date	Location	Organizer	Judged	Fee	Early Fee	Info - call
June 7	Farmington Town Park, Collett Rd and County Rd 8, Thruway Exit 44	MG Car Club	Yes	\$20	\$10 to May 29	<a href="http://www.mgcarclub.com">www.mgcarclub.com</a>
June 14	Elma Greens Park, 3007 Bowen Road	Antique Auto Club Amer.	Yes	\$15	\$12 up to June 1	655-0508 or 549-1810 <a href="http://www.aaca.org/lakeerie">www.aaca.org/lakeerie</a>
June 14	Rose Garden Restaurant, 2753 Wherle Drive	British Car Club	Popular	\$15	\$10 up to June 1	633-4586 or 694-7366
June 21	Charlotte and Howell Sts, Canandaigua NY (See page 4)	Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park	Yes	\$10	\$5 to June 14	(585) 944-0717 or (585) 396-3224 <a href="http://www.sonnenbergcarshow.org">www.sonnenbergcarshow.org</a>
Aug 29	Lewiston NY Jazz Festival	Jag Buffalo	No	None	"Invitation only"	<a href="http://www.lewistonjazz.com">www.lewistonjazz.com</a>
Aug 30	East Aurora, NY, Main St.	Toy Town Car Show	Yes	\$20	\$15 to Aug 1	652-4198 or 565-9571
Sept 6	Como Lake Park, Lancaster NY	Octagon Assoc.	Yes	\$15	\$10 to Aug 29	632-9001 or <a href="http://www.buffalomg.com\carshow">www.buffalomg.com\carshow</a>

Event

Entry Form  
(please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**VEHICLE ENTRY**

Make: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
 About Your Vehicle (attach additional info): \_\_\_\_\_

**CAR CLUB ENTRY**

Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Movie Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Entry (\$5 per vehicle)  
 Club Entry (no fee)  
 Car Corral Entry (\$50, subject to approval)

Mail this entry with appropriate fee(s) to:  
 Sonnenberg Gardens Father's Day Car Show  
 151 Charlotte Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or enter on line at:  
<http://www.sonnenbergcarshow.org>



Third Annual Father's Day  
**Car Show  
 & Auto Club  
 Competition**

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Food • Music • Displays  
 Car Corral • Children's Activities

MBCA Niagara supports this event. Think of your car in a movie, and enter to win!

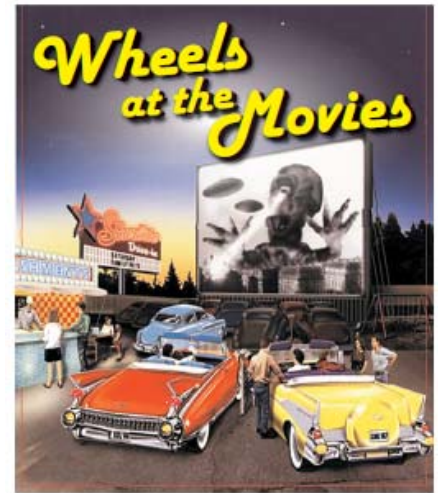
The club can win (again) for the best display!

Prizes

Best of Show • Best Club Display  
 People's Choice



151 Charlotte Street, Canandaigua, NY



**MSF**  
 MOTORCYCLE  
 SAFETY FOUNDATION®

**QUICK TIPS: Ten Things All Car & Truck Drivers Should Know About Motorcycles**

(Courtesy of Karl Hutchinson. See: [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org))

1. There are a lot more cars and trucks than motorcycles on the road, and some drivers don't "recognize" a motorcycle; they ignore it (usually unintentionally). Look for motorcycles, especially when checking traffic at an intersection.
2. Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. When checking traffic to turn at an intersection or into (or out of) a driveway, predict a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
3. Because of its small size, a motorcycle can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots (door/roof pillars) or masked by objects or backgrounds outside a car (bushes, fences, bridges, etc). Take an extra moment to thoroughly check traffic, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections.
4. Because of its small size a motorcycle may seem to be moving faster than it really is. Don't assume all motorcyclists are speed demons.
5. Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, say 3 or 4 seconds. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.
6. Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-canceling, thus some riders, (especially beginners) sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change. Make sure a motorcycle's signal is for real.
7. Motorcyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of road debris, passing vehicles, and wind. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane position for a purpose, not to be reckless or show off or to allow you to share the lane with them.
8. Maneuverability is one of a motorcycle's better characteristics, especially at slower speeds and with good road conditions, but don't expect a motorcyclist to always be able to dodge out of the way.
9. Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes stopping quickly difficult. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it can't always stop "on a dime."
10. When a motorcycle is in motion, don't think of it as motorcycle; think of it as a person.

# Grand Prix Racing Event

The cars were small but the excitement was very large at AJ's Grand Prix when the MBCA racers arrived!

After a short drivers' instruction period, we donned our helmets and got into our 45 mph super karts to enjoy a little competition on the indoor track. Several heats later, we were panting and perspiring, but we couldn't wipe the smiles off our faces! In the immortal words of the Terminator, "We'll be Back!"



# St. Patrick's Day 2009



The Buffalo Brew Pub was host to our March 17 regular meeting, which happened to be St. Patty's day too! Not wanting to pass up the opportunity to become Irish once again, we all got into the fun activities (and some beer)... Joanie Long led the games, singing, and a limerick contest. The winning limerick from team Bev, Ed, Fred and Mary Ann goes like this:

*There was a young man from Kilarney,  
Who worked at the fair as a carnie,  
He picked up the ladies  
In his lovely Mercedes,  
And entertained them with his Blarney!*



# Maple Sugar Tour and Pancake Breakfast



Thanks go to Mike Repko for organizing this year's Maple Sugar event at Moore's Maple Shack and Pancake House, Galen Hill Road, Freedom, New York. Vintage tractors with trailers carried us through the maples to see where it comes from, and how it's made. Breakfast was delicious, too!



And, on the way home, we viewed (and heard) the wind making electricity. We counted over 80 turbines along the way... very impressive, very green!



## WHEELS AND DEALS

**Wheels and Deals ads are FREE to all Mercedes-Benz Club Members, \$20 for non-members.**

Please note: ads will appear in one issue only, unless specifically requested. Submit ads and requests to Editor or email [genelong@verizon.net](mailto:genelong@verizon.net)

**1983 M-B 300 Turbodiesel**, 87k miles, dark metallic blue/blue int., cold R134a a/c, power sunroof, auto, p/s, p/b, p/w, cruise, alarm system, one owner all original, exc. cond., prof. serviced, original Becker radio, new M-B battery, exhaust & radiator, hood pad, car cover, asking \$10,950, negotiable. Call 716-912-2902 or email [genelong@verizon.net](mailto:genelong@verizon.net) for pictures and more details.



**Silver fiberglass removable hardtop** for Mercedes-Benz 500SL, 1996 - 2002. \$1,500. Local delivery available. Call Bruce Cullens, 716-694-2405 (Niagara Falls)

**Wheels:** 1 Front and 1 Rear in as-new condition and 1 Front and 1 Rear with "curb rash". Genuine Mercedes-Benz Original Equipment Manufacture (OEM) 18" Wheels for SL, CL, S, C. They are from a 2005 SL500 and should fit years 2003-2006. These wheels are 18" x 8.5" for the front and 18" x 9.5" for the rear. Asking \$300.00 or best offer for the as new condition, 175.00 or B.O. for the curb rash condition. I also have a front wheel in good outside condition but the inside lip has a bend in it - Free for a club member. Dale Hildebrant, [daleh77@msn.com](mailto:daleh77@msn.com), 716-675-9220.





## Welcome New Niagara Section Members

JASON DALE, WAYNE GERHART, WAYNE KNOX, JUDI LAIRD, LLOYD LIGHTFOOT, CHARLES NILES, MICHAEL PURKO, MICHAEL TOMKO, and STEVE WOJCIECHOWSKI

The Niagara Section Membership committee has launched new efforts to Recruit and Retain members. Our enrollment has been very steady over the past couple of years, but for 2009, we set a new Goal: to increase our roster by +10% and sustain the number, and we are already halfway there!

Some of our planned activities are:

- **“New Member Meet & Greet” Bar-B-Que, August 2009.**
- **Greater MBCA presence at WNY car events, such as car shows.**
- **New member packets will be distributed to all current members. These will include introductory flyers to highlight our local activities and benefits. A great conversation starter, the flyer can be given to anyone with an interest in Mercedes, wherever you meet—in a parking lot, a party, or even a gas station.**

## Advertising space is available!

Advertising in the Nickel City Star newsletter brings your commercial message to at least two groups. This award winning publication is distributed to and read by over 100 local Niagara Section members as well as others within the Northeast Region of the M-B club. Also, recruitment copies are placed at businesses affiliated with the club, and read by many of their customers in waiting rooms.

The Niagara section Website also has links to our advertisers at no additional charge. If you would like us to include your website URL, simply provide the link information. Your ad and link will remain active for four consecutive issues, then will be automatically renewed and billed. You may also opt to specify multiple consecutive years and lock in current rates up to three years. Ads may be prorated for partial years.

½ page size inside ad:	\$200.00	(Note: Ad copy may be modified between issues
¼ page size inside ad:	\$125.00	for special, promos or events.)
Business card size ad:	\$100.00	
Add your Web link to our site	No charge if ad is placed	

The Nickel City Star is published four times each year, and rates cover ads placed in all four consecutive issues.

*Please contact Gene Long, Editor, [genelong@verizon.net](mailto:genelong@verizon.net) or call 716-912-2902 for more information.*

***MBCA Membership Benefits - Please Renew!***

- Six big issues of The Star magazine every year
- Companionship with fellow M-B enthusiasts
- Locally sponsored events
- Local newsletter
- National driving, show, technical and social events
- Free classified ads, both local and national
- Free technical advice
- Reprints of recent and vintage articles
- Club Store online
- Raffle - new M-Bs



NIAGARA SECTION  
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB  
OF AMERICA, INC.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Nickel City Star Editor  
8561 Falls Rd.  
West Falls, NY 14170

A photograph of a silver Mercedes-Benz sedan on a showroom floor. In the top right corner of the image, there is a black box containing the Mercedes-Benz logo and the text "Mercedes-Benz".

**Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo**

8185 Main Street, Williamsville, NY (716) 633-0088 [www.mercedesbenzbfflo.com](http://www.mercedesbenzbfflo.com)