



Winter Issue <http://mbcany.org/> mbca.nycli Instagram Volume 76 Issue 2

## **Celebrating a Milestone Year!**

### **Great Marques 2022 Report**

Historic, Iconic, Monumental, Great Marques 2022 in the magnificent gardens of Old Westbury, was an event like no other. For 2021 Sean Ayrai, our intrepid Section Director showed our group an article in “Road and Track Magazine” highlighting the Cannonball round-trip record-breaking feat of Chris Clemens & and Mark Spence - (<https://www.roadandtrack.com/news/a37080863/back-to-back-cannonball/>) and made contact.



Chris (see Chris’s Impression below) was honored last year by our Section and showed off his 1999 R129 SL500. That started a beautiful friendship and became the lynch pin for Great Marques 2022. Along with the New York – Long Island Section and our leader, President, Oliver Seligman, we reached out to Long Island friends, BMW and Ferrari to host a Cannonball Icon Day reunion (the last such reunion was in 2020 with 75 participants and in 2022 over 300) and built our show around them. Mercedes Benz has long been

a major participant in Cannonball runs and has had several record holders. It’s not a surprise to most Mercedes Benz followers that our cars are built like no other and excel at outrunning most automobiles in the marketplace. Just a quick glance at racing history will tell you that.

The Great Marques show has grown over the years and always features something special. We always try to add a new element to our shows like honoring the 50 years of 107's for 2021 and our Directors are chosen to reflect where the section is going. This year besides a heavier Social Media push - we distributed flyers about the show to MB dealerships, higher end repair facilities, other weekend car shows to spread the word. A larger push was made to involve the local media and we followed up with ads in local papers

Our shows are held at Old Westbury Gardens, a jewel of the Gold Coast mansions that dotted Long Island during the late 18 and early 19 centuries. One of our Directors, Robert Hussey sits on their board which facilitates our use of the property. It's the largest tract of undeveloped land in Nassau County which is just a few miles East of New York City. Only a few of these historic homes remain.



*Old Westbury Gardens*



*Drone shot - Photo by Sean Ayrai*

Our team of Directors, VP, Lou Palumbo, of Gullwing Motors in Mineola stores supplies for the Great Marques Day as well as host our meetings or offers Tech Sessions on the care of our MB's. Director, Allen Lipp oversaw training of new Concours judges and was Chief Judge for Great Marques. Our wives and girlfriends filled in the

team to staff the special tents on the field. Gullwing Motors always host breakfast and coffee for the early arrivers and directors on site. It all seems so seamless but, the day resembles a bee's nest. Most of all we want our members to have a FUN experience and we make sure all members are welcome. Our membership always seems to grow during these efforts.

We always reach out to our Sponsors who – without their support – the show would not go on. Our local host Mercedes Benz Dealer is Rallye Motors in nearby Roslyn (<https://www.rallyemotors.com/>) they have been our supporter for years. Plycar (<https://plycargroup.com/>) returned and helped with shipping some of the Cannonball cars to Old Westbury. The McGovern Auto Group was very generous for 2022 (<https://www.mcgovernauto.com/>). Will Branston from Motorcar Classics (<https://www.motorcarclassics.com/>) is a very dear friend and very generous to the Club.

This year we teamed up with Cannonball, and the newer, C2C group and we began planning our September show last December. We had members from as far away as New Zealand and met regularly on Zoom. All our Board members



Displayed at The Country Hall of Fame – Nashville - Photo by John McAuliffe



Pam Yates & Chris Clemens

use their talents. Sean Ayrai (see Sean's Impression below) is an expert on all things digital, controls his drone for exceptional aerial pictures of the field and captures stills of our guest's Mercedes. He also helps manage the event. Then there is John

McAuliffe, our Communications Director that helped all our sections go digital 15 years ago, Lou Palumbo that runs Gullwing Motors, a repair and restoration shop with his son, Steven. Allen Lipp that runs Automobile Professionals, a group that values exceptional autos, Bob Hussey an entrepreneur, Mike Carroll, a lover of all thing's automobile, and our newest Member Yuri Marus. We have experienced people in John Anaischik and his wife Susan that got everyone, organized the correct categories, pre- printed their class envelopes and helped them when they arrived at the show. John also gets the trophies and helps distribute them. Together they also compile the list of winners.

For the first time we utilized more than just the fields of Old Westbury Gardens. On Friday evening we held a fundraiser/reception at the BARN for the Make – A – Wish foundation and we used that as a steppingstone to expand the reach of the club. At that reception we gave an award to Pam Yates, Brock Yates wife, that started the Cannonball Run back in 1971. Chris Clemens was also awarded a plaque. He drove his family's 1999 500SL across and back the USA reached out and got the Ferrari Daytona that Brock Yates drove to be at the show. One of our many guests, Ed Bolian, founder of Vinwiki brought his 600CL which too, broke a record. Ed's link about the Great Marques and Cannonball weekend is here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXY3sFDmBfA>) and (<https://youtu.be/CaTv9DRcLSs>). If you like automobile themed stories be sure to go onto Vinwiki and you too can tell your story. We had a team of film makers looking to make a new documentary on the history of Cannonball, on site as well. After the cocktail party we had iconic New York pizza to the delight of our visitors and the reception rolled into the evening. Written by Oliver Seligman – Edited by John McAuliffe

### **Impressions** - Chris Clemens

This show, for me started in 2021. I completed the Bob Burns C2C2C Memorial Trophy Dash and Sean Aryai reached out to me about the Great Marques 2021 show. It sounded like a great event, and I decided to go.

After the event I felt like I had been a part of



something special. The club was like hanging out with old friends. The event itself was a lot of fun and I had every intention of attending the following year.

Ben Wilson, a fellow C2C alumni and I were talking about finally doing something for the 50th anniversary of Cannonball. I suggested we reach out to the Mercedes club of Long Island and see if they would be interested in hosting us. We initially thought of just having a section of cannonball cars with a Halo area, but this grew to a 3 day event with a cocktail party, panel discussions with the Original Cannonballers, Modern Cannonballers and the event organizers. Film and documentary announcements were made on Saturday and finally the Concours d'Elegance on Sunday which, as I had expected in the past, a wonderfully light hearted and fun event.

The whole weekend was a fun time filled with fellowship from all the groups involved and I am delighted to have been a part of it.

**Impressions** – Sean Aryai – Sean’s link to his picture file -

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AvTb4JfA836Rg6VeUK7ZmqjHKTRbeQ?e=YVARTH>

The New York City-Long Island section has always played a leading role in organizing the Great Marques Concours every year and this year they took it to the next level. I contacted Chris Clemens through LinkedIn after reading about his historic record of making it from New York to LA and back to New York in 74:05 hours in his 1999 R129 SL 500 in Road and Track Magazine. Chris agreed to come to the show last year and was placed in the halo area among other noteworthy vehicles.

After a great event, the section stayed in touch with Chris and one day he brought the idea of a Cannonball reunion to be part of the weekend. Fast forward a year later and after many months of planning and logistics, a very special weekend happened on the historic grounds of Old Westbury New York.



The weekend kicked off Friday night with a cocktail party honoring Pam Yates (Wife of the late Brock Yates who is considered the father of Cannonball, Editor for Car and Driver, and producer of the Cannonball movies) and Chris Clemens awarded by Section President Oliver Seligman and MBCA Section Director and Old Westbury Gardens Board member, Robert Hussey



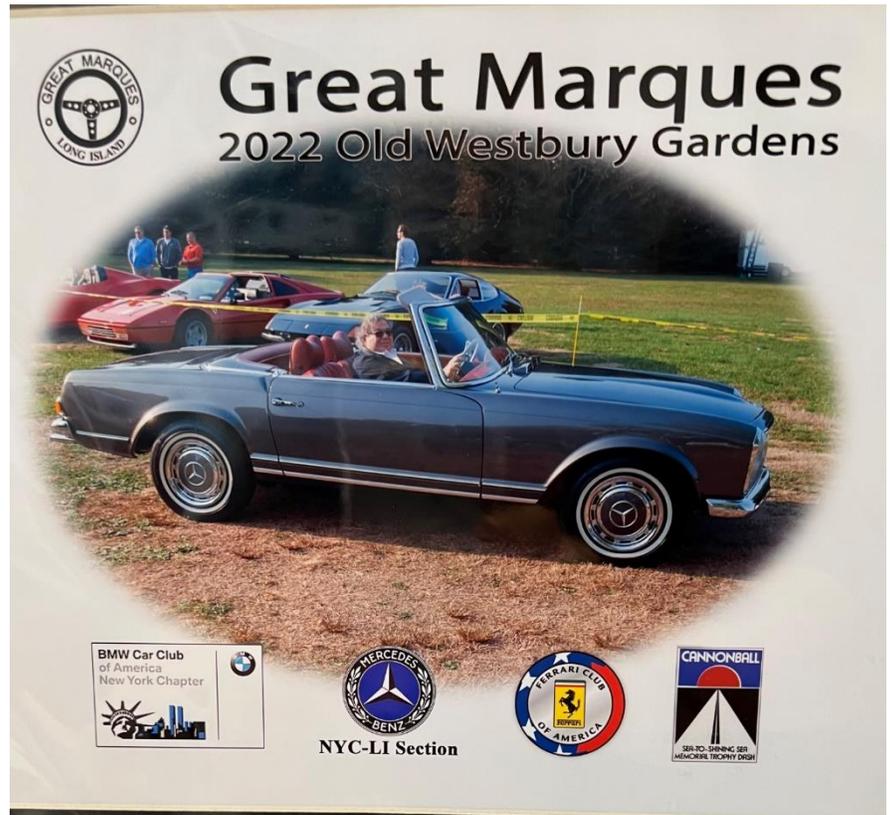
On Saturday over 300 Cannonballers from the 70s and 80s and modern area record breakers and their cars came together for their reunion. Some of the notable people and cars were the Ferrari Daytona that Brock Yates set the original Cannonball record, Ed Bolian's CL55 that set the last pre-pandemic record, and Arne Toman and Doug Tabbutt with their E63 and Audi S6 that hold the current coast to coast record of 25:39. Alex Roy was also there who broke the

record in 2007 and released a documentary about it in 2019, APEX: The Secret Race Across America. (<https://play.google.com/store/movies/details?id=Dd50iZ3722A.P>)



On Sunday the weekend continued with the Concours event across clubs with the cannonball cars in the field for participants and attendees of the show to mingle with.

Winner of the award "CAR I WOULD MOST LIKE TO OWN" - Bob Bersch - 1971 280SL (event picture by Artur Tadevosyan )



The poster features a central photograph of a dark blue Mercedes-Benz 280SL convertible with its top down, parked on a grassy field. In the background, other classic cars and people are visible. The top left corner has the Great Marques Long Island logo. The top right corner has the event title "Great Marques 2022 Old Westbury Gardens". At the bottom, there are logos for the BMW Car Club of America New York Chapter, Mercedes-Benz NYC-LI Section, Ferrari Club of America, and Cannonball.

## \$\$\$ Member Rebate Program \$\$\$

See details below and at the MBCA website

<https://www.mbca.org/mbusa-incentives>

Thanks again to our fantastic Sponsors!



A banner with a black background. On the left is a close-up of a classic car's front end. In the center, the text "CLASSIC CAR(E)." is written in white. On the right, the Mercedes-Benz logo is shown next to the text "Mercedes-Benz Manhattan".



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The ACP logo is on the left, with the text "AUTOMOTIVE CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS" below it. To the right is a photograph of a sleek, modern blue sports car. Below the car is a dark blue box with the white text "WHAT'S YOUR CAR WORTH?".

Click on our Sponsors to be taken to their webpages.



## 2022 EVENTS!

Mark your calendar

3/12 - Cars and Coffee - TBD

4/15 - Tech Session at Gullwing Motors - Mineola

5/14 - Cars and Coffee - TBD

June Jamboree -NNJS-MBCA-TBD

## Great Marques 2023

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Theme: Motorsports - AMG's and modified MB's

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ACP- <https://www.carvalueexperts.com/>

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[MBCA.org](http://MBCA.org)

Thank you!

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*Your Section Board Members: Pres. Oliver Seligman - VP. Treasurer - Louis Palumbo – Robert Hussey, - Past Pres. John Anaischik & Jerry Shapiro, - Mike Carroll - Allen Lipp – Dom Citera - Sean Aryai William Terraglio - Dan Dandridge - Regional Director Bill Fisher - John McAuliffe - NYC-Long Island Section Director of Communications  
Website - Visit often for the latest updates. Email: [jjmvideo@aol.com](mailto:jjmvideo@aol.com)*

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## \$\$\$ Benefits Announced – 2021 Incentive Program \$\$\$

Check out the latest incentive program from the Club. Members get savings on their Mercedes-Benz and you must be a member for 30 days. Tell you friends -

<https://www.mbca.org/mbusa-incentives>

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Craig Balaban - Sales Manager

Email: [Craig@motorcarclassics.com](mailto:Craig@motorcarclassics.com) Ph: 631-779-6200



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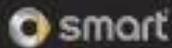


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**- John Mc Auliffe ([jjmvideo@aol.com](mailto:jjmvideo@aol.com))**

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