

# STAR GAZER

NYC-LONG ISLAND SECTION MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB of AMERICA, INC.

3rd Quarter

[www.mbca.org/NYC-Long\\_Island](http://www.mbca.org/NYC-Long_Island)

Volume 56 Issue 3

There are more pictures on our FaceBook page. <https://www.facebook.com/NYCLIMB>



## President's Message

Get your Mercedes Benz ready for the upcoming fall events! The final preparations are being made for the Great Marques car show in Old Westbury Gardens on Sunday, September 27th. We want you to bring your Mercedes Benz and show it in one of the classes. There will be good friends, trophies, and all participants will receive a picture of their Mercedes. The latest models will be on display courtesy of Rallye Motors our primary sponsor. Food will be available at several locations and of course coffee and donuts for all. Among our special guests will be our National President, Terry Kiwala, Peter Lesler, the National Concours chairman and Josie Lesler, a Director at Large on our National Board. On the field will be our friends from Porsche and BMW. It will occur RAIN or shine! Be sure to come and join us. Further information is available on our website and in our e-mail blasts. Sign up today!

There will be a car show as well the week before at Sears Auto Center and the week after and at Great Neck Plaza. On October 17<sup>th</sup> there will be the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Alternatives for Children Rally a sports car rally.

I hope to see you and your Mercedes Benz at these events.

Oliver Seligman, Section President

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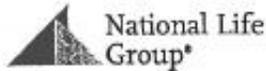
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*I appreciate the opportunity to position myself as a financial representative for you, your family, and/or your business. Should you have any questions regarding these matters, I would welcome the opportunity to be of help.*

Respectfully,

Dominick Citera, LUTCF

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## Scheduled Events

Sunday,  
September  
20th, 2015, at  
the Sears Auto  
Center on  
Broadway in  
Hicksville.



[Click here for our info and signup.](#)

View our [European Classics East event video here!](#)

"Great Marques" September 27 - Old Westbury

Gardens



The Mercedes-Benz NYC-Long Island Section will take to the field with Porsche and BMW for our East Coast car event. This is a growing showcase of classic, exotic and European cars with class judging, awards including Star Preservation review. Last

years "European Classics East" hosted over 350 cars. Our Premier Sponsors are Gullwing Motors - Mineola, Rallye Motors, Exotic Classics - Syosset, Airstream

\*Background:

Old Westbury Gardens - A backdrop for films and photography - The site of our annual September car celebration is picturesque for the exquisite English style gardens beautifully maintained each season.

Register online [Here](#)

Register by mail - (Form below)

\*All participants will receive

Great Marques Show pictures

Trophies will be awarded for Concours and Touring Classes entries.

This year we will add a Display Class for non-judged Mercedes-Benz cars driven to the event.

\* Fees: Concours - \$50.00

Touring: \$30.00

Display Class \$25.00



**The 19th Annual Alternatives For Children** Classic and Sports car Rally will be on Saturday October 17th, 2015. The starting line is at the Alternatives For Children Southampton location. The Finish line is at Oaklands Restaurant in

Hampton Bays. The special MB Club discount is \$99 by Sept. 30th after that \$150. View and print Registration form [HERE!](#)

Contact [Susan.ennis@alternativesforchildren.org](mailto:Susan.ennis@alternativesforchildren.org)

Great Marques Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Info: Mercedes-Benz  
 Model \_\_\_\_\_

Body Type \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

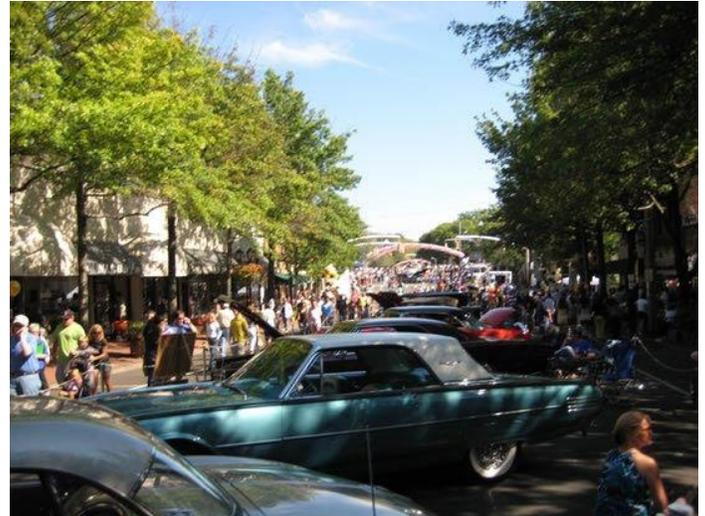
Entry:

Star Preservation Class (picture required)	\$75 (Includes Concours)	
Concours	\$50	
Touring	\$30	
Sprinter or SUV	\$30	
Display	\$25	

Make Payment by check to: NYC- Long Island  
 Section MBCA Memo Great Marques 2015

Mail to: Great Marques 2015 c/o Gullwing Motors  
 100 WINDSOR AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK  
 11501 TEL : 516-742-3320

**31st Annual Great Neck Plaza AutoFest & Street Festival, Great Neck Plaza**



October 4, 2015 (October 11th rain date). Known as the "The Great Event," the Annual Great Neck Plaza AutoFest/Street Festival, in its 31st year, brings a close to this summer's fun-filled lineup of festivities in the Plaza.

**Location:** Great Neck Plaza

**Address:** Middleneck Road, Great Neck Plaza

December 6 - Holiday Party/ Annual Meeting at the INN at New Hyde Park

**We always welcome your input. Contact John at [jjmvideo@aol.com](mailto:jjmvideo@aol.com) to list Cars For Sale, events to include in our emails and Star-Gazer or your Mercedes-Benz stories!**

**MID - ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Joe Grattan**

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**If you are interested in serving on the Board or service in the Club, please contact a Board Member!**

[JOHN MC AULIFFE](#)

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## The 2015 Airstream Interstate

By John McAuliffe – NYC- Long Island Section Communications Director.

### The Plan –

My travel needs may co-inside with like-minded, soon to retire, happy to see the grandkids, 60 years young people. When given the opportunity to “test drive” the Mercedes-Benz, 3500 Extended Tall Sprinter based World class RV from Airstream – let’s say, I jumped at it. It was an opportunity I could not pass up. I planned an ambitious tryout for the luxury vehicle. The tour would begin on Long Island, NY and include the picturesque town of revered and hallowed baseball fans of all ages, Cooperstown, NY.

This called for an extensive test of fortitude for any driver. Starting at 5:30 AM, I prepared for a grueling day. Packed with emergency gear, “always be prepared”, I followed the Boy Scouts credo. I occasionally just forgot what pocket and bag I put things in. A demonstration of this magnitude would not be complete without the determination factor. A small childlike voice inside my head repeated “I think I can”, so the little engine could. No little engine in this case. The Sprinter was based on the M-B six cylinder Diesel – extremely, real world tested in most of their work horse vans and in Europe.

The Mercedes-Benz platform van is also high and wide as to leave infinite selection space for plush passenger seating and storage cabinets that ring the interior roof line. A spacious galley, large fridge and ample convection oven are mid-ship across from a marine type commode and bath, sink combo. Airstream completes the color accents with top-notch material and plush décor. Floor, dimmer lighting, motorized sun shade and screen controls make for a luxury coach- bar none. For creature comfort – a roof top AC unit and LP heating system sets the temperature, and counter top sink and cook top stows away under a smoked glass top. I tested the thermostatically controlled powered vent fan during the visit. It kept the rig comfortably cool when we were parked on the Cooperstown side street. The outside temperatures reached almost 80 degrees but when we returned the Interstate was cooler than the outside. You know how hot a conventional vehicle would get. If you park and want to check your email, the front passenger seats spin and there is a computer style desk hinged to the wall. Abundant computer/smartphone charging USB ports can be found on the walls. You can also put up a table between the seats for snacking or for meals. To run the electrical systems- turn on the generator or plug into shoreline AC.



Most drivers and passengers are pleasantly aghast at the size of these luxury accommodations. Set your selves at ease. The vehicle is very car-like maneuverable and the safety systems include the latest in safe driving systems, Blind Spot Assist, a red triangle warns of blind spots when vehicles may approach your space. Lane Keeping Assist, a persistent “ding” alerts you to stay within the highway markers. Exterior rear cameras on a rear view display helps show how close to objects you are when backing up. Perimeter sensors give you a distance graph display on the

camera and indicators on the side view mirrors. The viewing display changes with your directional to show left or right lanes before you commit to the either turn. An audible alarm also warns of the impatient Neanderthal who tries to pass you during any course correction. No faults could be found, the systems were well thought out and work flawlessly.

Airstream – with their renowned attention to comfort and detail wraps the whole package in luxury function and practical creature amenities. Picture your favorite den chair whisking down the highway with your family and friends getting to destinations of wonder and mystery.

All your controls are easy to reach from driver or passenger position and Navigation, Bluetooth smartphone connectivity, HD radio DVD player on two cabin TV’s can be set up on the central display. It was easy for the co-

pilot to switch screens from NAV and HD radio and back. Subscriptions to satellite radio are available. Wifi and Bluetooth smart phone and wire connections make for office connectivity – or not!

What makes the drive so comfortable? The plush seats never got hot for my trip and multi selection of the six way adjustable seats removes the fatigue factor. All the controls were logical and did not require constricted poses to adjust. All in all – a panoramically generous wind screen allows for ultimate road and scenic viewing as miles melt away.



"The Babe" - Hall of Fame - Cooperstown, New York.

Cooperstown has picturesque amenities very pleasing to the eye and the sense of nostalgia in the lake town will please and overwhelm you. The GPS brought the Airstream to Main Street USA where centuries old iconic homes are frozen like an old post card. You receive the calm of simple times like a pilgrim discovering kinship and hospitality with like-minded tourist. Team shirts and hats worn by visitors' prompts comments of admiration and sometimes good natured protests from locals or other passersby. We wear our teams logo's proudly. No fan is out of place here. Cooperstown brings all competitors together in reverence to a game celebrated in song, print and film. It is memory town – giving one an opportunity to share team and family history.

I knew the selection of Cooperstown would excite my passenger. He is an avid sports fan and was up for the trip for the fun of it. Why travel in one day? We both had a time limit to complete the trip which was about 5 hours from his home and 4 hours from mine. It was ambitious to attempt it in one day. Cooperstown is a scenic ride with a stretch of highways and back wood roads. I thought it a perfect test for the Airstream.

Historic, for the shrine to the national pastime of baseball, Cooperstown has great old homes on display as well as an exquisite lake. The tree-lined winding roads and major highways bowed to the Airstream's control and comfort. Even the occasion of a traffic jam did not tire this driver and my co-pilot did not complain.

After a generous local lunch, we headed back through the mountain and tree-lined roads. The GPS was accurate at each crossroad and gave fair warning for each turn.

Being familiar with Sprinters in general (I own a 2005 2500 11 passenger limo comfort van) – driver fatigue would not be a factor. My last monumental trip was New York to Denver Colorado last summer with my sister and 83+ young parents to



visit their great-grandkids. Sis also packed a travel sewing machine to finish some projects in the Denver hotel. Some 1800 miles down the road – that trip took about 26 hours of driving with a rest – stop hotel stay. All in all, it took about 2 full days. The van performed with perfection. With all 8 passengers leaving Colorado and 4 being dropped off at the Denver International airport we looked like charter bus travelers. I could see the Airstream similarly pressed into service, luggage and all. My only restrictions were routes with low bridges. The Interstate stands almost 9 ft. tall so, some Long Island parkways are a no-go. The posted overpass height is 7 ft. 10 in. My 2005 stands 88 inches with the AC on the roof. As long as you follow traditional truck routes – you will be grand. Unlike the trucker who was on the Belt Parkway wedged under the overpass at JFK Airport after I had dropped the Airstream off at its home base. It made for a 20 minute delay at about 10pm. Aha, New York, not at its best!

The Airstream is a time machine. It makes dreams come true and transports you over any type of road. If comfort is your need –the Interstate will have you enveloped in it. It was a pleasure to drive and fits in conventional parking spots.

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