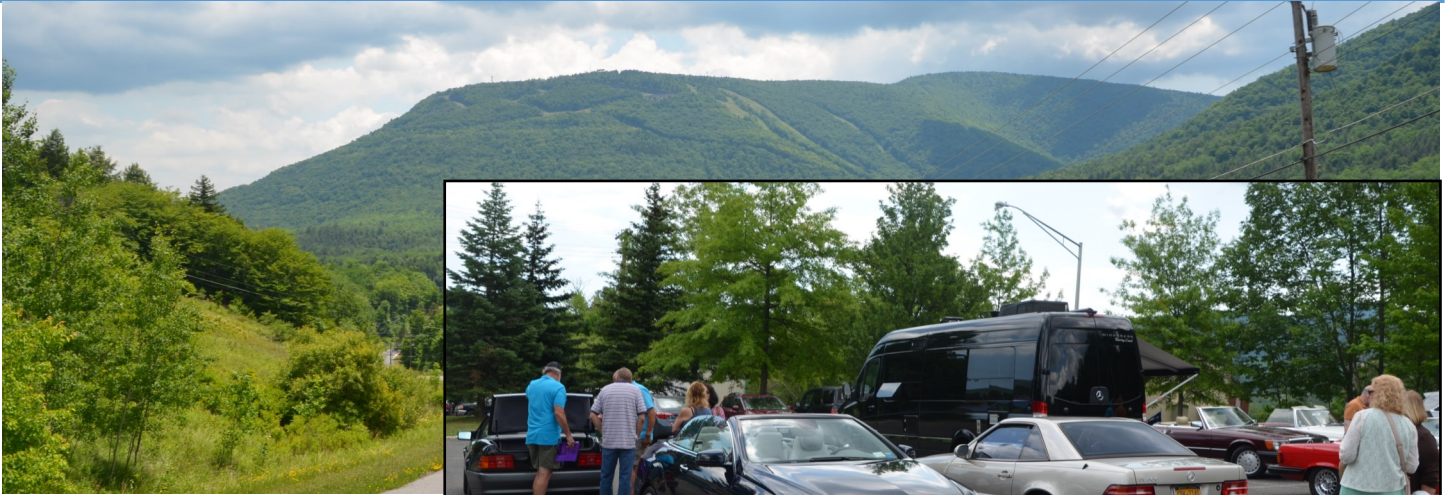




# HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America

### EARLY SUMMER EDITION



This has been a busy spring and early summer for your Hudson Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club with all sorts of activities: some educational; some Mercedes driven; some just plain fun. Your Board has planned many more late summer/ early fall opportunities for you and your Mercedes-Benz to enjoy. Check out the upcoming activities on Page 9, mark your calendar and just cruise on in to enjoy



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope all of you are having a great summer. It's almost over but there will still be plenty of opportunities to enjoy your BENZ.

On June 25th Jodie Larison and her husband Tom hosted an excellent rally in the northern Catskills in and around Hunter, NY. It was fun, very scenic and well attended. They did a superb job! Maybe they can be per-

Recently some board members and I spent a Saturday afternoon with two past presidents, Sally Suffolk and Ann Fisher. We had lunch and a boat ride on Canadarago Lake in Exeter, NY near Richfield Springs. Sally, who was section president in 1982, shared with us documents she had been saving from then until now, along with stories about the early origins of HUDMO. There will be more about our visit in this newsletter.

We have a family picnic coming up on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, a rally scheduled for the fall, September 30, October 1-2 in Lake Placid, and, of course, the **Starfest** in early August.

Please send me your ideas and thoughts about anything "MERCEDES

### CONVENTIONAL WISDOM by Board Member Noel Sodher

Conventional Wisdom says that we should never put more money into a car, a boat, an airplane, etc. than the Blue Book says it is worth. That can pose a problem for those of us who own an older Mercedes or other fine things. Why would any rational person spend more on something than it's worth? The answer comes down to a definition of worth.

If someone had spent \$20,000 on restoring a Mercedes 190 SL 35 years ago, which was higher than its value, they would have been told that they were foolish. But now, in 2016, immaculate condition cars are going through the collector auctions for prices in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Still thinking foolish? But the value of something to its owner is not always based upon price. A significant piece of old jewelry, a cracked fishing pole, or a faded photograph brings back wonderful times that represent treasured memories to its owner, memories that help define their lives.

Does it make any sense to defy conventional wisdom? Not to the ordinary type of person who defines value in very restrictive terms. But you and I are not ordinary folks. We happen to enjoy one of the world's finest cars and its engineering, its class and panache, its true value being among the finest of human mechanical creations. Yes, a Mercedes! It is great fun to drive and own, but it also has brought us together in The Hudson Mohawk Mercedes Club.

The Club provides the hard core enthusiast contacts who can help in the restoration of a 190S or any other model, helping them locate parts, professional help, if needed, and the sharing of the experiences of thousands of members who have done similar projects. Discounts on parts, service, and purchase of vehicles are also available to members.

# MBCA 100 POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

WRITTEN AND EXPERIENCED BY BOARD MEMBER, CHUCK FRIGON

To me, one of the great advantages of having **Starfest 2016** in our own backyard this year was that I was able to attend an MBCA *Concours* Judging School. This school was sponsored by the local Minuteman MBCA and held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Mercedes Benz of Burlington, Mass. dealership. Our instructor was none-other than Peter A. Lesler, MBCA's National Concours Committee Chairman & Instructor. We spent the whole morning learning the national rules for judging under the MBCA 100-point scoring system for Street and Show cars. This was followed by a visit to the European Auto Solutions dealership and auto repair center where we got to practice judging on a variety of cars in all sorts of conditions.

Just to briefly summarize the MBCA's 100-point scoring system, it involves judging vehicles using a point deduction system that is made in increments of ¼ point minimum. There are five judging categories: Engine Compartment – 25 points, Paint and Coachwork – 25 points, Interior – 20 points, Lights and Glass Trim – 18 points, Underbody – 12 points (show cars only).

Each category will cover overall condition, cleanliness/corrosion, leaks and stains. Emphasis will be on authenticity of components with the exception being paint and coachwork. Here the emphasis will be on quality of body and paint work as well as fit.

Show cars (trailer queens) must be 25 years old or more and are judged using a full 100 point system. Show car engines will be started and will demonstrate that all their instruments and systems are operational.

Street cars will not have their chassis and undercarriage judged resulting in a maximum score of 88 points. They can be awarded an additional maximum of 6 points each for mileage and age resulting in a maximum of 100 points.

Having completed this day long training I was then awarded a certificate which will allow me to participate in the judging of vehicles participating in MBCA Street and Show events. These training sessions are held



## TECH SHOW, KEELER MERCEDES BENZ, APRIL 23, 2016

Keeler Mercedes-Benz hosted an information packed TECH SHOW for HUDMO. Rick Walker, Shop Steward, and Jay Hale, Master Technologist, truly outdid themselves presenting the newest technological and mechanical advances in Mercedes' automotive offerings. Our large HUDMO turnout, which included several students from George van der Wouden's automotive technology class, was treated to breakfast, an excellent Q & A session on both new and old cars including a look into the future implications that dealerships must constantly upgrade their equipment and training to service the new technology. All got to see various car models being worked on in the shop including a few members' cars on the lifts. We were taken on a tour of the new building behind the Smart Car sales showroom, moved to enlarge the auto workspace in the main garage, which houses the detail shop where new and used cars are prepped. A "state of the art" carwash is also in the new building. There was a drawing for a



# NORTHERN CATSKILLS CAR RALLY

## SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016



Kudos to Tom and Jodi Larison for planning and leading an excellent rally and exploration of the beautiful Catskill area. For starters, they ordered a gorgeous day, routed us up a scenic road past the Kaaterskill Falls to reach the rally point, and provided clear directions that led us through awesome mountain roads, picturesque towns and historic sights.

At the half-way point we took a break at the Zadock Pratt Museum and learned about the history and settling of Prattsville as a planned community. Pratt brought workers from Holland to work in his tannery and built the houses they were to work in. Hemlock trees were plentiful in the Catskills and were used in the leather tanning process, so it was natural for tanneries to flourish in the area, hence the village of Tannersville nearby. The tanneries are long gone, but Hunter and Windham Mountains still attract visitors in all seasons, and we can understand why after traveling their roads.

Did any cars get lost during the rally? They sure did; didn't they Brenda and Jim? and Vickie and Kathy? However, all managed to make their way to the end point, Hammo's Brew Pub and Restaurant, where we were treated to a talk from the Master Brewer and a welcome from the owner. Jodi and Tom gave prizes to the 3 couples who answered all the questions correctly on the rally, and we all enjoyed a delicious meal before heading home. What a nice day for all! Thank you Jodi and Tom and also Chuck and Bobbi Tri-marchi who test drove the rally route before we all attempted it.





## AN AFTERNOON WITH SALLY SUFFOLK

President Jim called one Tuesday afternoon and said, "What are you doing Saturday? We have to go interview Sally Suffolk, a founder of HUDMO, in Cooperstown. She has a house on the lake." Being the trusty reporter that I am and expecting a good story for the newsletter, I said fine. This was followed by texts from most of the Board Members also ready to go on an adventure. We had box lunches ordered and brought plentiful supplies of picnic food and desserts. Well, it turned out Sally lives in Exeter NY on Lake Canadago, a little piece of heaven very few of us (none) had heard of before. No matter, we had a wonderful afternoon meeting Sally, viewing her unique house which her late husband, a former state trooper and judge, had hand crafted in his woodshop. Sally became obsessed with Mercedes in 1982 when she and her mother answered an ad for a 1975 model 235, known as the German taxicab. She became practical and hesitated buying it, but her mother insisted she buy it. Her MBCA membership started in 1982 with the Finger Lakes Section which included western NYS and Ontario, Canada. She organized a number of events including rallies and was elected secretary, newsletter editor and president. The region was too large and ultimately HUDMO was formed in Eastern NY. She received the award "Officer of the Year in 1985." Sally donated many of her records, newsletters and history to us to keep. You will be hearing more about the history of HUDMO in future newsletters. Another past president of the club and friend of Sally's, Ann Fisher, joined us also. They both had many stories of past activities to tell us. Then Sally surprised us by having a "party boat" take us on a tour of the lake while we ate dinner. What a boat it was! Palm trees, picnic tables and hammocks for side rails. We had a lovely tour of the lake and enjoyed our relaxing, informational visit with Sally. We will be seeing her again soon as she is registered for **Starfest**.







## HUDMO COMING EVENTS

Your Board has planned many varied activities for summer and fall for your enjoyment. Pencil in some of your favorite activities so you can **save the dates** to join us. Summer is short in the great Northeast so make a point to spend some time with us.

**BREAKFAST AT SARATOGA RACE COURSE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016.** Join us to watch the thoroughbreds exercise on the main track and enjoy a buffet breakfast featuring everything you could possibly imagine. We will meet at 8:15. You may park inside the gates, but must move by 10:00 if you are not staying for the races. If you do stay, there is a charge for parking.

**FAMILY PICNIC FOR ALL MEMBERS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016.** At the Cook Park Sharon Drive Pavilion from 10 am-6pm. There will be many activities and lots of food for all. Bring the whole family for softball, horse shoes, volleyball, conversation and car talk. More information will follow, but keep the date open for lots of fun.

**FALL CAR RALLY IN LAKE PLACID SEPTEMBER 30 –OCTOBER 2, 2016.** Run by Ron Tanner, rally master, join us for a wonderful weekend of driving and merriment. Specific details are found on page 10 of this newsletter and your registration is found on page 11. Tear it out and send it to Ron. His address is included.

### RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR SHARON COHEN, MARRIOTT EVENTS PLANNER

Some of the Hudson -Mohawk Mercedes - Benz Club members attended the retirement party for Sharon Cohen, Sales Director of the Marriott hotel on Wolf Rd, in Albany, NY. She has helped with our monthly dinner meetings for over four or five years. Those throughout the Capital Region, especially in the Albany area who were in attendance included; Mr. Brown of the YMCA and others spoke and thanked her for her true professionalism, and genuine caring which she also displays to our club members. Going over and above every time to make sure we all feel very comfortable in holding meetings and events at the Marriott Hotel.

This wonderful and hosted retirement venue for Sharon included a very unique set up and ambiance which helped attendees float around, mingle, and taste delectable foods which included wrapped shrimp, a carved roast beef and turkey table, unique cheese, vegetables, and a fruit table. And, especially, a dessert table which had attendees returning time, and time again even after wishing Sharon best wishes in her retirement.

*By member Brenda Motley*

## 2016 Fall Tour and Rally September 30 to October 2, 2016

Our host hotel is the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, the “gem of the Adirondacks.” A limited number of rooms have been blocked out for the Hudson-Mohawk Section MBCA. You are urged to make reservations as soon as possible as the cut-off date for the hotel is in early September. Room rates vary by type and location of room. If you are an IHG Rewards Club member or a Priority Club member be sure to ask for your upgrade. You can, of course, use any alternative booking site. To book directly call:

**(518) 523-2556 mention that you are attending the Mercedes-Benz event for best rates**

The cost per car for this event is **\$150.00** and must be attached to the enclosed registration form. Your entry fee includes Friday’s “Meet and Greet”, bagged lunch for each registrant on Saturday and dinner for two Saturday evening along with other expenses such as awards, raffle prizes and special table items.

The tour leaves Saratoga Auto Museum at noon 9/30/2016 as we begin our fun tour to Lake Placid, NY.

We will drive to Lake Placid on roads less traveled; the scenery and foliage should be great, and this leg is a tour only with no challenging route directions or questions. We will arrive mid to late afternoon to give everyone a chance to visit downtown Lake Placid and prepare for Friday evening’s “Meet and Greet” in the hotel’s spectacular Great Room with a cash bar and lots of finger food.

Saturday we will leave mid-morning on the challenging rally along some of the Adirondack’s most beautiful roads. At noon we will collectively meet at a very special site where space to eat the bagged lunch you were given at the hotel will be provided. The afternoon leg is sure to be challenging and will pass areas where you may want to drive your car to Whiteface’s peak or explore a beautiful gorge. Appropriate footwear is advised. Keep camera at the ready.

We will arrive back to the hotel mid-afternoon allowing for some casual time and to prepare for the evening sit down dinner. A cash bar social hour will begin at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. Attached is a registration form which we urge you to get to me as-soon-as possible. If you have any questions, please email or call me:

Ron Tanner [exqqme06@yahoo.com](mailto:exqqme06@yahoo.com)  
(518) 822-1664



**Fall Foliage Tour and Rally**  
**Registration form**

Name of driver \_\_\_\_\_ Name of navigator \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Year and model of your Mercedes \_\_\_\_\_

Have you made your reservations? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Below are your choices for Saturday evening's dinner. Salad and dessert have been pre-selected. Please indicate how many of each meal you want, limit two per car, and let us know if you have any dietary needs.

Qty \_\_\_\_ Sliced Tenderloin of beef, grilled sliced tenderloin topped with an onion leek confit

Qty \_\_\_\_ Chicken Prosciutto, boneless breast topped with prosciutto, cheese and a light mushroom sauce.

Qty \_\_\_\_ Salmon Beurre Blanc, served with a delicate wine butter sauce.

Bagged lunches will include your choice of a ham, turkey or roast beef sandwich. Please circle your choice.

All lunches include water, fruit and a cookie.

Make checks payable to:

Hudson-Mohawk Section MBCA

Mail this form and enclose check to:

Ron Tanner

24 Pleasant View Drive

Hudson, NY 12534



# Keeler Motor Car Company

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