



# HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America

# 2019 LATE SUMMER EDITION

Summer's over already? **HUDMO** has experienced a lot of activity this season from car shows, picnics, and air shows, to a tour of a National Historic Site. All activities included food, of course, frivolity, fellowship, and car talk. All our gatherings were suggested by members like you. If you have any ideas or interests you feel the club would enjoy, contact our President or an officer or Board Member and we will do or best to incorporate your idea in our calendar for the coming year.



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



It has been a very interesting and fun summer. We have been to an air show featuring the Blue Angels, a multi-million dollar car show, a picnic and car meet on the Great Sacandaga Lake in the Adirondacks, the Lead Foot Lucy Car show and the Conquest Rallye (dress up in period costumes) in the Catskills. But! It's not over yet.

We are always soliciting ideas and events to make HUDMO more fun and valuable to our members.

If you have any ideas, please share them with us.

One of the things we are interested in is what do you do to or with your vehicle at the conclusion of the driving season? Can you give us any suggestions? What do you do for winter storage?

Another, and the most important, is ideas on how to recruit and retain members. **YOUR THOUGHTS?**

We will have the North East Region Farber Rallye 42 on October 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center in Lake George, New York. The Rallye has two independent parts, time and distance precision driving and searching for clues along the prescribed route. This will all take place in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains as the fall foliage shows its most brilliant displays. It is the best time to experience colorful scenery and the colonial history of the region. Pictures and coverage of the Rallye will be in our next newsletter. If you didn't register, you're missing a weekend of fun and foliage. Plan on participating in several events scheduled for the rest of this year and next year.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019-**

**Holiday Party at the Italian American Club, Washington Avenue Extension, Albany. Details to follow**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 The Simon and Garfunkel Story at Proctor's. Details will go out in October with deadline for sales December 1, 2019.**

**MORE ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW**



# MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

Elections were held at the September 26th meeting. Here are your Officers and Board Members for the 2019-2020 year. Congratulations and prepare for another successful year. We appreciate the hard work of our representatives.



**President, Jim Wright**

I am curious, adventurous, and skeptical. I am seldom in a WOW, now that's impressive state and I don't believe in reincarnation. I have tried to visit all the wow places I could around the world. When I arrived at these places, I said WOW!; "All of the dead old Benz cars owned by my friends had arisen from the crusher and had been reincarnated as taxis in every place I have been that had serviceable roads."

That's why I love the Mercedes-Benz. I have two of them an S430 and a 300SD. They have taken me safely to seek satisfaction of my curiosities within driving distance and returned me safely. I was very skeptical of the legends of their reliability, longevity and comfort. .... IT'S ALL TRURE! SO MUCH FOR SKEPTICISM. If you make a serious effort to take care of your car, the mileage on the odometer doesn't matter. I am proud and very happy to be President of HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION OF THE MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA.



**VICE PRESIDENT and  
SECRETARY SAUNDRA  
GRIFFIN**

I wanted to learn more about Mercedes so I joined the Club in 2009. Since becoming a member, I've enjoyed planning events, driving my friend's car and meeting the members. Recently bought my first Mercedes a 320 CLK Cabriolet. (Saundra has been Membership Chair and official Party Planner for HUDMO for a long time. She is a hard worker and excellent organizer for the club, and is now taking over even more responsibilities. -editor's note)



**TREASURER  
CHUCK FRIGON**

Currently Semi-Retired, Substitute bus driver for Queensbury NY School; Member of HUDMO since 2012; Member of the Board 2014. Attended-MBCA's *Concours d'Elegance* Judging School May, 2016. Mercedes Vehicle Models owned: 2008 C350 Sedan RWD, 2008 E350 Sedan AWD, and current owner of a 2013-C350 Sedan RWD. Chuck was first appointed treasurer in January, 2018.

# MEET YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KIRK DANIELS



I'm a camera buff. I enjoyed taking landscapes and some portraits, but when I was invited to Mercedes event about 5 years ago, my thoughts turned to cars. After looking at some of the photos from the national Mercedes magazine, "The Star," I started looking at Mercedes in a different way. Can I do that? The rest became history. I'm the photographer for the club and challenging myself everyday to see my pictures in the magazine

LEW DECKER



My interest started about three years ago; a friend who has another friend informed me of a person they knew who was elderly and going into assisted living. I was asked if my wife and I would like to see the house before going to a real estate broker. I looked in the garage and there were two Mercedes sitting in the bays. I was drawn right away to a convertible that had low mileage and looked in beautiful shape. I gave an offer right away, but was turned down. About a year later I got a call asking if I was still interested. I was surprised as I figured it was already gone. I offered a larger amount and the deal was sealed. I had no prior knowledge about Mercedes other than what most people believe about them. All I knew was they were German made, beautiful, well built and expensive. This car I bought is the iconic SL 1986 560 which came with a hard top also; I was hooked on the Benz. ,

BILL DUFUR



Been involved with cars since 1961 and married to co-pilot Enny for 52 years! Currently have 2 in the family, a 2019 SLC4-3 and a 2016 GL40 with a new one due in October. In addition to enjoying our Mercedes, we are long term boaters living on *Summer Romance* most of the summer at Albany Yacht Club. I'm very proud to be a Director.

GEORGE MOSES



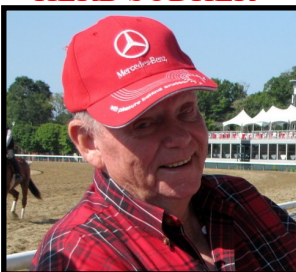
...bought my 1st Benz in '78 -a '71 220 sedan...owned at least one since, and now have five '64 thru '85 cars on the road plus a '52 Cab A project in the garage...joined MBCA for camaraderie, events and discussion about the mark (and *The Star* is a wonderful mag)...enjoy calls for tech/buying/parts/service advice on the older cars.

VICKIE PARKER



I am also your Newsletter Editor. I have been active in HUDMO since 2007 when I bought my first SLK 350 which was totaled five years later. I replaced it with a 2013 SLK250. Love the hard top convertible, smooth ride and easy handling. Before my first Benz, I was a Corvette girl, but that's another story.....

HERB SODHER



Dyed In The Wool car enthusiast. Member of Mustang, Corvette, Miata, RX-7, Porsche, Jaguar and Mercedes Clubs. Officer in many. Enjoy the social aspects of club activities and making new friends. Learning the technical, engineering, performance and history is very satisfying as well as sharing info and learning from others.



# HUDMO PICNIC AND CAR MEET

When HUDMO arrived at Lanzi's on the Lake on August 4th, we witnessed ominous dark rain clouds overhead. Some of us ran into rain showers on our way, much to our frustration, since we had polished and prepped our vehicles for the car meet. However, our cheery group forced the clouds away, and the sun shone on our Benzes for the rest of the day. We had games available, but people were anxious to visit with friends they hadn't seen for a while and meet new members. Dinner was a buffet everyone enjoyed. The car meet displayed both vintage and 2019 models and all present enjoyed examining the display. Cars were judged by members of the Board.





# PICNIC AND CAR MEET CONTINUED

The car meet awarded the following categories: People's Choice, 1999 or Older, and 2000 or Newer.

We wish to thank Lew Decker for planning and organizing our successful picnic.





# LEAD FOOT LUCY CAR SHOW



After two valiant attempts in July which were cancelled due to rain, **HUDMO** was able to enjoy a lovely summer evening on August 14th at the weekly car show. By then many members had given up trying or had gone on vacation, but a few were able to meet. The assortment of classic cars was fun to view and we received lots of compliments and questions regarding our Mercedes.

## MERCEDES TRIVIA

1. What is the motto of Mercedes Benz?
2. The founders of the marque were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, both engineers working separately to develop a gasoline engine for several years.
3. The world's first production car occurred in \_\_\_\_\_ and was called the \_\_\_\_\_
4. The first automobile sold as a Mercedes appeared in what year?
5. What is the significance of the Star, the symbol on all Mercedes Benzes?
6. The 300SL coupe and roadster were popularly referred to as \_\_\_\_\_
7. The MB Sprintr is made in \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was special about the 300 SLR?
9. The Mercedes nomenclature for the SUV Line is \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is the name of the Mercedes dealership in the Albany area.

Send your answers in to [newsletterlady5@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterlady5@gmail.com) to see who wins the prize for the most correct answers.

# NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW

On August 24th and 25<sup>th</sup> Members attended the International Air Show at Stewart International Airport. Hosted by members Oscar and Barbara Holtenbeck, attendees were treated like VIP's. Members enjoyed special VIP parking, a shuttle to the viewing area, seating, food and refreshments. Some members even rubbed elbows with the pilots at pre and post show receptions. Thank you Barbara and Oscar.  
—Saundra Griffin



**SOARING JETS  
AND  
AERIAL  
FEATS!**





# THE LADIES OF MERCEDES

## The Last Days of Summer with the Hudson-Mohawk MERCEDES LADIES!

The HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION MERCEDES LADIES and any Mercedes Men who wished to join us (we had two) met in “Stockbridge,” Lee, Massachusetts, at one of the area’s popular shopping spots, the ‘Prime Outlets.’ We proceeded to our scheduled private tour, arranged by Vickie Parker, of The Mount, Edith Wharton’s self- designed home and historic gardens. The weather was threatening, but it did not ruin our visit.

It was a majestic, creative display of a woman’s artistic ability, coupled with nature’s sustenance in a well-defined fashion beyond anything one could imagine. It was extremely beautiful.

Edith Wharton was a “distinguished and controversial writer” of short stories and novels. She was also an aristocrat who didn’t follow the many norms of the times and set her own moral compass as to how a polite woman of high society should behave. She became notorious when she thought that her husband was having an affair and she also followed suit.

As the Mercedes Ladies walked through the garden of Edith’s creation it was evident that whatever was not good in her marriage never impeded her beautiful, artistic, flower garden designs. The Mercedes Ladies were in awe of over fifty, if not more, unique gardens, each having radiant colors and each with its own artistic story. The plants, flowers and water fountains and plant types included Rosemary, Garden Tulips, Cineraria, and roses, just to name a few. Our guide described the different flowers and how they each are cared for very methodically. The tour guide, Bob, was a very intelligent well-informed man, who didn’t just list the facts, but brought to light the extraordinary life and times of Edith Wharton and explained the reasons she created such a beautiful statement of her life, and how and why she lived her life the way she did.

After the garden tour we were treated to a tour of her self-designed home where she took great care to keep everything symmetrical. Her library contains many of her signed, first editions along with signed editions from many authors including Henry James, with whom she entertained and discussed writing. She lived in the house from 1902 until 1911 when she sold it and moved to Paris.

We then journeyed to a wonderful lunch at the Red Lion Inn. Then, to top off the remaining activities of the day, we all went and had specially made ice cream and other sweet treats. Most of us then went shopping afterward at the “Prime Outlets.”

Over-all, this initial first Mercedes Ladies event of the year was very successful. All the ladies who attended said, “We will have to do this again.” I totally agree. —*Brenda Motley- Wright*



Chuck Frigon and Bill Dufur, Men of Mercedes



Webs in the Woods, art show



**Mercedes Ladies Continued**



THE LADIES OF MERCEDES AND MERCEDES MEN  
AND BOB THE TOUR GUIDE



THE MOUNT



GARDENS OF THE MOUNT—THE GRASS STAIRS



YUM! HOME MADE ICE CREAM



GOOD LUNCH





## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Your **HUDMO** Mercedes Club in the spirit of giving **has donated \$250 to the Poestenkill VFW** to help them with their excellent work in the Capital District area. Rob Kong, their Commander explains their work in the following letter he sent to us:

The Sullivan Jones Post 7466, for which I am the duly elected Commander, represents the VFW at the local and community level (located in Poestenkill, NY). We are comprised of three units; the VFW members are those of us who have fought on foreign soil during war time; the auxiliary, which are comprised of those who are direct relatives of a service member who fought in war; and our association, comprised of those who are active members of our community.

We primarily support veterans through charitable donations to worthy causes. Under my leadership, any monies and material dispersed have stayed in our local area (Stratton VA, Albany Housing Coalition - Veterans Homelessness, etc.). We plan and conduct the local areas memorial (parade and food at no cost) and veterans (services and refreshment s) day services. this year I am proud to report that we were able to include in our services for memorial a children's Sunday/funday, a BBQ lunch, and capping the evening with a fireworks display.

My auxiliary periodically spends time at Stratton VA visiting with and providing care packages to those who reside or are staying there.

Additionally, we provide support to the surrounding community with children's movie nights; Easter, halloween, and Christmas parties; sponsor a cub scout pack, scouts of America troop, and venture crew; every Tuesday we provide meeting space for local area seniors to congregate; at least once a month we host a community breakfast, for which we transport veterans from Rensselaer county nursing home for a free breakfast; provide supplies to Poestenkill Elementary School; offer a voice of democracy and Patriots pen scholarship at the high school level; among other activities as they arise.



**DON'T FORGET!** ALL MEMBERS ARE INVIED TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS WHICH ARE HELD THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:00PM. MEETING PLACE WILL BE ANNOUNCED A WEEK BEFORE THE MEETING. COME MEET THE OFFICRS, BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER CLUB MEMBERS. GIVE US SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE IN **YOUR CLUB**.



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