



# HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America

# Fall and Winter Edition 2021

## Goodbye, BOB Mc SHANE: - A MEMORIAM

Bob Mc Shane, a long time member of our club died recently. He had been a member of **HUDMO** since December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1990. Bob participated in every important club event in both leadership and supporting roles. He was frequently a chief judge at our yearly car shows and offered technical advice to Benz owners new and experienced. Bob was an intellectual “gearhead” with an extensive library on the technical and historical aspects of vintage Mercedes, that he had mostly committed to memory. If you had a question about anything Mercedes, he would probably know the answer. If not, he could research it in very short order. Bob was a treasure-trove of facts and interesting anecdotes. He enjoyed sharing as much as we appreciated receiving access to his encyclopedic knowledge. Bob loved cars, loved to drive, and loved to put vehicles in their optimum condition. He owned a 1959 220S, 1966 250SE, 1972 350SL, 1999 SLK230 Kompressor, and a 2005 E320.

Probably one of his most favorite things was timed rallies, one of which he entered with past president Ron Tanner, down the East Coast. Another was a national event, a several day trip around Lake Michigan, which he drove alone in his convertible. He also loved to travel. Most years in the non-driving season he took trips to exotic places in the South Seas.

We will miss Bob. He made being a member of **THE HUDSON MOHAWK MERCEDES BENZ CLUB (HUDMO)** an enlightening and fun experience.

—Jim Wright, President



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



2021 was a very difficult year for club members to share in-person events with each other. We have had to be very creative and careful. While we had some masked driving trips, the necessary precautions required prevented us from truly enjoying and celebrating the social interactions we have looked forward to over the years. Most of those were cancelled or severely modified. 2022, hopefully, will be a very different, safer, and even more creative year. To achieve this, we need more member participation. The wealth of knowledge that

our group has to offer can highlight the state-wide geographic and cultural roots that exist. When new ideas are incorporated into the HUDMO agenda everyone could benefit.

We could not only have additional driving opportunities, learn a great deal about our state, make new friends and have lots of fun. New York is vast and has many different types of regions. One of my goals is to explore them with the members who know them best... and THAT MEANS YOU! If there is a road that won't destroy our vehicles, LET'S GO!

**HUDMO IS NOT JUST A CAPITAL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION FOR RAPIDLY AGING SENIORS. HELP US BE MORE INCLUSIVE. SHARE YOUR IDEAS. VOLUNTEER FOR LEADERSHIP ROLES. HELP US ATTRACT MORE YOUNG BENZ OWNERS AND ADMIRERS.**

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

### JIM IS WAITING FOR YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

**What would you like to experience as a HUDMO member? It is your club and we would like to hear from you. Where do you want to travel in your Mercedes? Do you want mechanical information to refurbish an antique, run your Benz on a real racetrack, put the top down, feel the sun on your face and just revel in the minute, pick your groceries and your kids up in style, or visit new places with new people? Contact our President, Jim Wright at [HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com](mailto:HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com) and tell him how you really feel. Our Board members need your feedback so we may plan activities for you. We need your ideas and we would love you to come to our meetings or chime in on our virtual phone meetings. This is your club.**  
*Vickie Parker, editor*



# ADIRONDACK FUN RUN, JUNE 23 2021

We all have felt the consequences of COVID by being locked up for months on end and not getting out to enjoy the beauty and views of the great Northeast. The Hudson Mohawk Mercedes section felt we needed to get out with our cars and take in the scenery of the beautiful Adirondacks. We met up in Gloversville NY and headed up to the Adirondack Museum on Rt. 30 at Blue Mountain Lake. The museum is very interesting with much to see and even has interactive exhibits for us to participate in. After exploring the museum, we headed north to Long Lake and had an afternoon luncheon at the famous Long Lake Hotel. About 15 cars attended with Drew Webb, Northeast Regional Director, and his wife coming from New Hampshire for our Fun Run. We plan to have more of these interesting and varied get-togethers in the coming year.

*- - - Lew Decker, HUDMO Section Board Member*









## FABERALLYE 43. OCTOBER 19-21,2021

This year's Faberallye was hosted by the Northern New England Star Section. The rally was held in the lakes region of Winnepesaukee, Meredith, New Hampshire. Accommodations were at the beautiful Mill Falls Resort overlooking the lake.

The first night's get-together was held right on the lake with a heated tent set up with tables and a complete hors d'oeuvres and beverage section. It was a fun time for all, with three couples from our section attending: Chuck Frigon and his wife Barbara, Paul and Linda Haight, and Lew and Velice Decker.

Next morning we all met for breakfast and got our rally instructions from Rally Master Al Larsson. We picked up our bagged lunches and headed for the lineup of cars. The sun was shining and the temps were near 70 degrees, a great day to put the top down if you have a convertible, which we all did!

You could sign up for either the quiz rally or the time-distance, which normally is a little more involved. My wife and I picked the quiz one, and when Al handed out the question sheet, we were on our way. I have to admit that the directions and questions were not always easy, but they're done to make you think and to challenge you. In all, it was great fun taking in the scenery and stopping by the lake to enjoy the view. We arrived back at Mill Falls some four hours later with maybe a quarter of the questions not answered. I figured we had little chance of winning. After all, it was really about riding through beautiful views, sharing time with others, and having a common enjoyment of all things Mercedes.

We all met for the evening banquet of great food where we discussed the day's road course and the difficulty of the questions. Awards were handed out to all the winners of the quiz and the timed distances. I was very surprised to learn our table got the most awards for the evening. Linda and her husband Paul came in second in the timed distance, Chuck and Barbara came in third in the quiz and Lew and Velice tied for third also. Ernie Fancy, Director at Large and our previous Regional Director, came over to our table to congratulate us all and take pictures.

The next morning we headed out for our five hour ride home, and luckily, the rain held out until we arrived. This kind of made it a perfect outing with great friends and good weather. Next year's rally will be held at the Minutemen Section in Massachusetts fall 2022.

*--- Lew Decker, HUDMO Board Member*



## MEMBER OF THE YEAR: BARBARA LAWSON

Congratulations, Barbara, for your Member of the Year title. You have more than earned it! You and your husband Glenn travel hours to attend many HUDMO events in the Albany area. Barbara Lawson is a member with her husband Glenn Lawson who joined the HUDMO section in 2010. We first met Barbara at the Hudson car show touring the light house. Barbara enjoyed talking with members and relaxing on the porch at the club's trip to Mohonk Mountain House. She's always a willing participant, creating memorable truck displays at each Rally and the Polo Event. As Social Ambassador, she sends caring and thoughtful cards to members giving best wishes or condolences. Barbara's assistance enhances club experiences. She is the unofficial event coordinator for the Mid-Hudson area researching unique and remarkable places for club activities. Barbara's most recent contribution was the research for the trip to the Purple Heart Museum in New Windsor followed by lunch at Brothers' Barbecue in Cornwall, N.Y.

Barbara is a caring, conscientious member. It is with great pleasure that the Board present her with the Member of the Year Award.  
- Saundra Griffin, Vice President and Secretary





## Towing Dual Axle Trailers with our Mercedes GL SUV:

Shortly after purchasing our used 2007 GL450 4Matic with the usual Air Suspension and the not-so-common Class IV factory tow package, I purchased a 2,000 lb Tandem Axle Trailer to tow our 5,000 lb. Kubota 4WD Loader/Backhoe between our Pleasant Mount PA and Kingston NY properties.

The GL can pull 7,500 lbs. but has a lower than normal 600 lb. tongue weight limit (Euro's 8%, instead of the US's 10%). I added a Tekonsha Prodigy P3 90195 Brake Controller to the factory installed wiring under the dashboard to power the Electric Trailer Brakes.



The trailer brake lights would fail with a Brake Light Failure message immediately upon stepping on the brakes. The '4-ways' hazard and turn signal lights would work as normal, but no brake lights on the trailer. (The hitch receiver looked like it had the original paint, so the previous owner probably never towed a trailer in the 7+ years they owned it.) Jason at Keeler Motors in Latham NY quickly determined that the Rear SAM original programming was for the non-USA variant, but a quick reprogramming fixed the Brake Light error. (Thank you Jason!)

Many would say we'd need the diesel motor or at least the 550 motor to pull the full 7500 lb. capacity, but short of normal automatic downshifts and a minor slow down as we tow up good size hills, the GL450 does a fine job of towing our equipment. In April 2021, we drove to Houston TX to purchase a 2015 Lance 1685 '4 Season' 5400 lb GVWR travel trailer. Like our tandem 'lowboy' trailer, the RV trailer had only the 2-5/16" ball hitch and no Sway control or any Weight Distribution System. However, the increased cross-section of the 20' camper made going faster than 63 mph unnerving, so we charted the 'scenic routes' back home as we visited a few campgrounds and other pleasant sightseeing stops on our return. (Gulpha Gorge Campground at Hot Springs National Park AR with my Senior Lifetime National Park pass was a favorite!)

We had 'settled for' the smaller 20' model with its 275 lb. Tongue/Hitch Weight as we learned from the Lance RV Forum that many would have more than double the dry hitch weight. But being more familiar now with the layout, we decided to get the 22' trailer rated at 335 lb. tongue weight & 5700 lb. GVWR, and just be very careful to not load up the front and exceed the 600 lb. limit, as is often done by many. (continued on page 8)

## Towing Dual Axle Trailers with our Mercedes GL SUV: (continued)

I could relocate the trailer's front mounted battery and spare tire if needed. We soon drove to NH to purchase a 2015 Lance 1985 trailer, and it came with a Husky Center Line TS Weight Distributing Hitch which definitely helped with sway control.



I had learned from the [Lance RV Forum](#) that many would have more than double the dry Hitch weight. But being more familiar now with the layout, we decided to get the 22' trailer rated at 335 lb. tongue weight & 5700 lb. GVWR, and just be very careful to not load up the front and exceed the 600 lb. limit, as is often done by many. The Husky sliding torsion bar system was noisier than I cared for, so I purchased a

Blue Ox SwayPro system and moved the Husky system to the 20' trailer. The SwayPro system is silent and much easier/safer to load and unload - a great improvement!

I bought a used Sherline Trailer Tongue Weight Scale so I can easily be sure to not exceed the 600 lb. capacity of the GL.



We already have our first Quarter Million Kilometer 'High Mileage Award', but with now over 294,000 miles on the GL450, we're less than 16,000 miles away from our second (500,000 km) Mercedes-Benz Classic Center medallion, and it's looking like many of those miles will be Towing our Lance 4 Season Travel Trailer around our beautiful country.

You can read much more about towing with a Mercedes on the Forums.

--- Brett and Debra Kropf



# LEADFOOT LUCY CAR SHOW

What a beautiful evening we had for the car show, not too hot, but a nice summer night to gather under our banner at Kohl's Plaza in Colonie, enjoy each other's company, and examine about 150 classic, new and notable rides of all kinds! We had an excellent turnout with new members dropping by to meet us and even a member from Cooperstown took a trip to see what there was to see. And there was a lot! Plan on joining us a Wednesday in July of 2022 for a relaxing evening out. There are even places available for food of all varieties. An email will go out to all members on a Sunday night in July reminding everyone to just show up in their Mercedes on the coming Wednesday (weather dependent). The show is open from 5 to dusk. We'll be there to meet you.



***Lotus Ltd./Mercedes-Benz Club of America High Performance Driver Education Day Watkins Glen, June 1, 2022***

**Attention all interested Benz “Racers”: Something for you**

**To all our High-Performance Driver Education Attendees**

**As we move into the new year, I wanted to drop you all a note wishing you all a great New Year and to inform you that our date this year for the MBCA, Lotus Ltd High-Performance Driver Education Day at Watkins Glen is Wednesday June 1, 2022. Our registration fees for this year are \$395 for drivers that have qualified with us to drive solo and \$425 for drivers who require an instructor. The website to register is [www.clubregistration.net](http://www.clubregistration.net). It is the same site we have used for the past 7 years and if you have been with us before, you should already be a member of the website. Our event will be live to register shortly.**

**Please mark your calendars. We have missed the past two years and we want you to join us as we take to the Watkins Glen International Raceway again!**

**As this is the Wednesday after the Memorial Day weekend, I am working on making this Driver Education Day more of an “event” by arranging other things to do in the local area on the days preceding our track event on Wednesday. Some of things we are working on are a tour of the Corning Glass Museum in Corning, a tour of the Glenn Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport NY, a bus tour of Wineries in the Finger Lakes region and tours of the Soaring Museum and National Warplane Museum in Elmira, New York. We have also planned out a few incoming “sight” rallies from the major points of the compass to keep you entertained on the way into the Glen. Trophies will be awarded! Registration fees for the museum tours, wine tours and incoming sight rallies has not been determined but it will be very reasonable.**

**I have contacted several hotels and motels in the area, and there is a possibility of a discount on rooms.**

**I would like you to email me back at [tvacc@lotusowners.com](mailto:tvacc@lotusowners.com) and let me know first if you plan to attend, and second, if you would be interested in the expanded events.**

**If you are not a driver/student but an instructor, I apologize. Please let me know and I will adjust our list and send you a instructor email.**

**Again, Happy New Year to all and everyone drive safe.**

**Regards,**

**Tony Vaccaro**

**President Lotus Ltd.**

**716-861-1412**



## SAVE THE DATES

YES, WE HAVE ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR! TO DATE THESE ARE DEFINITE:

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022 1:00 PM CABIN FEVER PARTY**

**DINOSAUR BARBECUE**, 377 River St, Troy NY 12180

They have a room for private parties overlooking the river. (We will have 4 hours available in room.)

The cost will be **\$34 per person (includes tax and tip.)**

Menu will be the **BBQ Duo**: Choice of 2 Pit-Smoked Entrees, 2 Homemade Sides & Cornbread

**Selections:** Pulled Pork, Prime Brisket, St. Louis Cut Ribs, BBQ Beef Tenderloin, BBQ Chicken Mixed Quarters, Boneless Chicken Breasts, Portobello Stack, Smoked Turkey, Pulled Chicken BBQ, Salmon BBQ, or Jerked Jalapeño Cheddar Hot Link Sausage

**Sides:** Chopped Salad Harlem Potato Salad Coleslaw Orzo salad w/ roasted vegetable BBQ Beans with pork, Syracuse Salt Potatoes with Cajun Garlic Butter, A.K. Chili, Mac & Cheese, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Cajun Corn, Simmered Greens with Smoked Turkey

All packages include: Fountain Soda, and Coffee.

Sandra Griffin will be sending an evite with more specifics to all members.

**Tuesday, June 14, PROCTOR'S THEATER, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**

\$65 /SEAT WITH GROUP RATE. SEATING GROUPS IN 2'S OR 4'S. More details will be emailed.

## FOR SALE — FLORIDA CAR!

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