



Mercedes-Benz Club of America



Hudson Mohawk Section

FALL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

Third Quarter

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Fall Mid-Hudson Brewery & Winery Tour

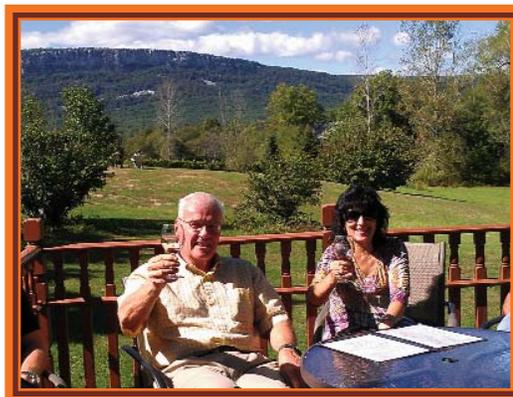
All of the “best laid plans” in the world can’t provide one of the most important ingredients for a successful outing for a car enthusiasts’ club - perfect driving weather for sedans, coupes, cabriolets and roadsters old and new. But that is what we were blessed with for our brewery and winery tour held September 12th along the scenic Shawangunk Mountain Wine Trail. Sunshine and warm breezes made the driving and relaxing on winery decks as pleasing as were the good New York wines to our palates! Our day began in the parking lot at the Gilded Otter Brewery in New Paltz, where we renewed acquaintances and made some new ones, walking among the nice selection of Mercedes-Benz vehicles that arrived to begin the outing. Soon after, the group settled in on the comfortable deck of the brewery for a hearty lunch and some sampling of their varieties of beer produced there for the season.



foothills of the Shawangunks, arriving at our first stop, the Robibero Family Vineyards on the Albany Post Road. There we enjoyed a tasting of their numerous reds and whites in the nicely appointed

tasting room, and then retired to their broad deck with a great view of the surrounding hills as the sun began to warm the afternoon air. Purchases completed, and shortly after the live music started on the deck, we re-established the line of cars and made our way to the Whitecliff Vineyards, aptly named for their spectacular view from their deck of the white cliffs of the facing escarpment. Our time at the Whitecliff Vineyards was memorable, not only for the quality of the vino, but also for the detailed description of each of their products by a young man very knowledgeable in wines and the wine making process, and with colorful descriptions of strongly held opinions of what was best! The breezes flowing over the lawns and across the deck, as well as the wine and chocolate bark with which Jim Wright generously treated us, made it difficult to leave, but on we pushed.

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President's Adventure: I found "USED ANTIQUES!" driving my 1968 250SL

Welcome to the Fall Newsletter, another fine edition from Jim Wright and Carlene Thusgaard. As you may recall Jim asked that if you had a road adventure this summer to share it with him and he would publish your experience in the quarterly Newsletter.

Well Maureen and I had such an adventure in mid-August. It was our plan to take my 1967 250 SL to Prince Edward Island. Unfortunately the car was still in its final restoration stage and was not available so we decided to take our 1968 250 SL. It was not running well but we wanted to drive one of the old cars so off we went.

Our first night brought us to Augusta, Maine, three hundred and fifty four miles from home in Claverack, NY. The car performed well and seemed ok. In the morning we left for Bar Harbor with a plan to drive up the Maine coast to New Brunswick, Canada. On our way to the coast we traveled some isolated country roads which we loved. Along the way we saw things that made us chuckle such as a sign reading "Country Store and Dance Hall, get your bread and kick up your heels." Another sign read "Used Antiques", apparently the market for "old antiques" had dried up.

On the first day of driving along the coast we visited some quaint little fishing harbors and ate some great seafood. We spent the night in Campobello, Canada, the place where FDR's summer cottage was located. The next morning we asked where was the best place to get breakfast. We were told there was only one open in the morning. It was a bakery and breakfast place. I ordered eggs with rye toast, I was told "sorry no rye toast." The couple behind us ordered blueberry muffins. They were told "sorry no blueberry muffins." We ate our breakfast and were waiting for our check when another couple came in and the waitress asked if they were there for breakfast. They said "yes", to which the waitress replied "it will be awhile because the chef had to go the health clinic for a shot". A shot, for what! We had just finished eating and did not feel very good about her response to the customer, but we sur-

We were ahead of our planned four nights to get to Prince Edward Island (PEI), so we took the coastal route through New Brunswick. We visited little fishing villages like St. Andrew, famous for their chocolate museum. How sweet. In Dipper Harbor they were preparing for the next day's "Fisherman's Fest." We wished we could have stayed.



Continued on Page 3



Winery Tour *continued*

The last leg of the tour was a drive just under twenty miles through the beautiful hills punctuated with views of orchards and vineyards flowing over gentle slopes, made even more memorable by a few missed turns and 180 degree turnabouts. But the entry drive through sprawling well-groomed lawns, past ponds with fountains and up to the façade of the impressive Stoutridge Vineyard and Distillery's deck-bordered prohibition era structure, made it worth the journey. The solar-powered, energy efficient facility incorporating unique construction materials, and gravity feed, no chemical processing methods of wine making that are also unique, were thoroughly and enthusiastically described to us by the wine owner. Following the tasting of many of their 12 wines, we moved to the deck and enjoyed a few more sips of wine with a tray of fine cheeses, grapes and crackers provided by Frank's Deli of nearby Marlboro. The conversation on the porch eventually turned to brainstorming ideas for future club tours, which, if the weather is nearly as cooperative, will live up to our memories of this fine fall excursion.

by Chuck Trimarchi



President's Adventure *continued*

We continued along the coast until it was time to head north and find a place to stay for the evening. The motel we found was in Sussex Corner. The next morning while having breakfast, a couple who we had met the night before came to our table to tell us that the motel manager was delivering a key to another overnight guest who had misplaced his keys. The manager was not too happy to be called from home at 12:15 am. She got out of her car in a huff and did not close her car door. She did not put it in park. The car rolled back and hit my car leaving a nice dent in the fender. We did not let this spoil our trip.



Traveling along the coast once again we visited more interesting seashore villages. The route along the Bay of Fundy led to the Confederation Bridge and Prince Edward Island. The bridge is eight miles long. It is the longest bridge in the world over water. Everything in Canada is so expensive but we were surprised at the toll of \$44.25.

We made it to our cottage which was in Prince Edward Island National Park. It was a great cottage just across the street from an isolated bay with a beach. There was great swimming. The waters are the warmest north of Virginia with red sand beaches and cliffs. We took easy walks along them everyday. As we traveled around the island we were impressed with how clean and organized everything seemed to be. There seemed to be a great sense of pride by everyone in keeping the island pristine. Most of the houses had beautiful flower gardens. One would think you were in a botanical park.

Maureen had to visit all the attractions related to "Anne of Green Gables." This is one of the main attractions on the island.

Traveling inland on the island we saw the most beautiful farms, neat, clean and magnificent fields as far as the eye could see. Now and then we would come across blue and purple fields of clover in bloom, PEI claims to have the best beef in the world because it is clover fed.

Red sand was on most beaches but to our west were beaches of white sand. One of these was called "Singing Beach" because the sands made a singing sound when the wind was blowing.

A sense of adventure came over us one day so we went to a go kart track and did about ten laps, I won.

We could learn a lot from this island as every thing is green. You must sort all trash into three categories, trash, recyclables and compost. The compost is picked up separately and taken to a plant which cooks, grinds and bags it for sale. This is part of the reason they have such magnificent gardens, fresh compost.

I took a lesson on how to shuck oysters and have the nicks and cuts on my fingers to prove it. One beautiful afternoon we went on a lobster boat to have a two and a half hour seminar on lobsters. If there is anything you want to know about lobsters, just ask. Oh and by the way lobsters on the island are only served cold and are very expensive. Our host paid five hundred thousand dollars last year for a lobster license which entitles him to fish two months of the year in a very restricted area of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Our time on the island came to a close but what a wonderful experience. We will go back.

What about the car you ask, well at high speed it ran great however if you stopped and turned the engine off it would not start until it was completely cooled. We had to carry extra water in the car to put in the engine to speed the process.

We dashed home in three days and two nights. The total trip was three thousand six hundred and twenty one miles. We used four quarts of oil and paid \$1.38 per liter for gas. There are 3.8 liters in a gallon, that's expensive. It was worth it for the memories we will have for years after this driving adventure.

Let us hear about your driving adventure. I would love to hear about the adventures that driving such great cars can bring. This has been a great year thus far for the club and its members. Read about some of our events elsewhere in this edition.

Ron Tanner



HUDMO Calendar of Events 2012

October 8 - Clermont Columbus Day Road Rally, Red Hook

October 12-13 - Farberally, Sturbridge, MA

November 16-17 - Christmas Mercedes-Benz, Cape May, NJ

Photo finish.....



The 3rd annual HUDMO Labor Day Buffet at the Saratoga race track was a winner. The weather was sunny and warm. The twenty-five club members and friends enjoyed the last day of the races with good views, good food and good hunches; well..... good views and food.

The gathering began at the Pavilion by the Rail just before noon with the anticipation for a great day. The track had record attendance but the group enjoyed a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with comfortable seating and an attentive wait staff. Club members from Newburgh, the capital district, other parts of New York and Massachusetts mingled while they determined the best methods to select a winner. I used the "Oh, that looks like a good name method". It doesn't produce great winnings but it's fun to watch your horse cross the finish line. Even if it is 3rd!!!!

Club officers and members had big dreams for a horse in the 5th race with a group wager but at post time the horse hadn't finished his nap. After enjoying an ample lunch, everyone had the opportunity to select luscious chocolate cake and other desserts while listening to a Dixie Land Band.

Mark your calendars for Labor Day 2013 and continue the tradition of fun and excitement.



Jennifer Sweet



Jennifer Sweet is the Marketing and Communications Manager for Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls and Mercedes-Benz of Danbury Connecticut. She loves the car business and enjoys talking with customers and developing strong relationships. She is the face, heart and soul of the dealerships and responsible for all customer communications. All who meet and work with her feel as if they just discovered a long lost relative or an old friend who is only interested in their satisfaction. She clarifies complex issues and directs you to the sales or service staff that can help you best. She makes you feel that you want to be part of her dealerships' family. She has been kind and very helpful to HUDMO (Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club of America). Jennifer has sponsored a Tech Event and allowed her staff to participate in our car shows in her region. Jennifer is a HUDMO member in good standing and has encouraged her staff and customers to join too. Thanks Jennifer.

Jennifer has been with Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls for over 10 years. She has been the Pre-Owned Sales Manager, the New Car Sales Manager, and General Sales Manager.

She attends and participates in many community events and sponsorships. Jennifer is currently the President of the BNI Chapter in Poughkeepsie. BNI is an international business networking and referral group

Ms. Sweet is married with a 5 year old daughter. She graduated from Susy at Stony Brook in 1997 with a BA in social sciences and was supposed to be a teacher. Her love of the car business caused her to use her considerable credentials to help her dealerships grow and prosper.

It has been a pleasure working with Jennifer and HUDMO looks forward to many years of mutually beneficial projects.

New Members

- Bryan AustinUtica, NY
- David BennyScotia, NY
- Amalia BossHopewell Junction, NY
- Patrick Doyle.....Hudson, NY
- Marc GoldinAlbany, NY
- David HassoWynantskill, NY
- Oleksiy Khinchegashvili.....Binghamton, NY
- Anne Loretto.....Roseboom, NY
- Christ Malizia.....Ballston Lake, NY
- William McKeever.....Rome, NY
- Andrew McVinishNew York, NY
- Marlow OlsonSchenectady, NY
- Richard Rubin.....Slingerlands, NY
- Robert Stevens.....Rhinebeck, NY



Tim's Tips-Hibernation

Wow, where did the summer go. I don't know about anyone else, but this summer feels like it just had begun. It looks like the autumn season has started to show up, knocking at my doorstep the last few nights. With the autumn season quickly approaching, and the last of the summer shows and cruises approaching and passing on by, it's getting close to the time to pack your beloved Mercedes Benz treasures away for the coming winter months. Sadly, I have already begun the process of getting the ball rolling on my own winter automobile storage. So you might be asking yourselves, what is the best way to store a vehicle for the winter? There are many ways to do this. Here are some ideas for storing your vehicles this year.

I'll start with the first basic item on the list, storage. Where is your valuable possession going to be housed this winter? The best/premium storage option for vehicles during the winter

would be a climate controlled, sealed, dry storage area, with the walls made from metal and the floor concrete. This will reduce the potential for rodent entry. Not everyone has the ability to store a vehicle in the



most premium of environments for one reason or another, so let's explore another option, rented garages. Most people who store vehicles for the winter rent a garage from someone else and the remaining others have access to barns, covered storage, temporary shelters...etc. The following tips apply to anyone storing a vehicle anywhere.

When searching for storage or when loading the available storage area with your possessions, first purchase and put down a sheet of 3.5 mil or thicker plastic. This can be purchased at any hardware store for about \$10-\$20. This will prevent any moisture from coming up through the ground and affecting the undercarriage of your vehicle. After the plastic is installed, find or purchase 4 pieces of dried wood, roughly 1"x6"x36", and place them where your wheels will park and sit throughout the winter. This will prevent any shifting of the ground and will help to eliminate flat spotting from the tires sitting in one place for an extended amount of time.

Next, spread some moth balls, dryer sheets all around and under where the vehicle will be sitting this winter. Spread them over as wide an area as you can. This will act as a scent barrier for bugs and rodents. Then take 2 wads of steel wool and set them aside for when your vehicle is parked for the season. You will use the steel wool in the tailpipe and in the intake duct to prevent rodents from making a home in your air intake and exhaust systems. Last and this is optional, if you have some plastic sheeting left over, make a plastic "shelf" above where the vehicle will rest and taper it towards the walls of the garage. This will help to prevent any leaky roofs and any rodents or animals running around in the rafters from affecting your vehicle.

The last item to prep is... you guessed it the vehicle. One item that is overlooked in most cases is the engine oil. It is recommended to change the oil before you let



a vehicle sit over an extended amount of time. This will help to prevent sludge build up and dirt particles from causing harm to your vehicle's engine. Another recommendation before putting your vehicle away for the winter is having it checked out by your mechanic or local dealership. Request a brief check over which includes adjusting tire pressure, checking tire condition, notifying you of any repairs to be made before storing, and any fluid leakage that should be addressed before storing. So what's next after everything has been checked out mechanically and a storage facility has been acquired? Well that would be to prep your vehicle even more, with a detail. It may sound funny, but a good detail job could prevent critters from damaging your precious upholstery and interior components.

Once the vehicle is placed in the storage facility, a good idea would be to disconnect the battery and or remove it entirely and connect a trickle charger (1.5 amps.) for the winter. Place some dryer sheets inside the vehicle, in the trunk, under the hood, and any other place where rodents may want to make a nest. Also, now would be the time to plug off the intake and exhaust systems. Before covering the vehicle with a vehicle cover just as an extra barrier of protection. This is highly recommended. Take a couple pictures of the vehicle. This way you will know what your vehicle looked like when it was put into storage. If something happens to it or the building that it is in and it gets damaged in some form or another, you will have proof that it wasn't damaged when you stored it. The last and final recommendation I have for you, is to get a



quality pad lock (if applicable to your type of storage). The last thing you want to have happen when storing your vehicle away for the winter,

is to come back in the spring and find out that it has been missing since the day you placed it in storage. You don't want someone to break in and steal it.

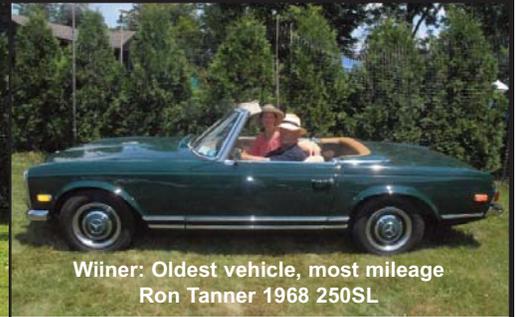
Just remember. Remove the steel wool from the intake before starting the vehicle in the spring.

I wish everyone good luck with their vehicle storage this coming fall and winter season!

The Great Gatsby Car Show



Shameless Plug
Jim Wright 2003 S430 4MATIC



Wiiner: Oldest vehicle, most mileage
Ron Tanner 1968 250SL



Wiiner: Best in Show
Cornelius & Tim van der Wouden
1982 240D



Wiiner: Second Place, farthest distance traveled
Kris Roglieri 1983 500SL AMG



Our annual car show was a big success. Thirty-five cars participated. It was held at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie, New York. Our club was a featured part of the antique and specialty car show that is a regional event held there every summer. Our theme was "The Great Gatsby". HUDMO members were encouraged to get into the spirit of the event by dressing up in the clothes of the period.

In addition to the automobile trophies, winners were chosen for; best Gatsby look, Carlene Thusgaard; most outrageous hat, Lynne van der Wouden; and best picnic setup, Glenn Lawson. A raffle was held and other prizes were awarded. Cornelius van der Wouden and Tim van der Wouden a grandfather, grandson team won best in show for his restored 1982

240D, Kris Roglieri received second prize for an AMG 1983, Ron Tanner won two awards for oldest vehicle a 1967 250SL and highest mileage for the same vehicle. Kris Roglieri won another trophy for longest distance traveled to get to the show. He drove from Johnstown, New York, a distance of more than 120 miles.

It was a wonderful warm summer day. When we weren't admiring cars, we sat beneath the trees, ate ice cream and drank lemonade.

A nice time was had by all and we hope to see you next year.

Special thanks to Jennifer Sweet of Wappingers Falls Mercedes-Benz for sending Roger Pauletta with a 2013 E550 4MATIC sedan to add to the great cars in the show.



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* Based on a comparison of the Automotive News Classification of full-size commercial vans.

HUDMO Picnic

What is a picnic? Well, for most people it's a gathering of friends and family that includes good food, drink, a lot of laughs and a sunny day. HUDMO's annual picnic held at Lake Taghkanic State Park in Ancram had all of those things except a sunny day.



It rained so hard, I thought we were going to have to build an Ark. We were forced to enjoy the shelter of our almost waterproof tent. It was waterproof, but not windproof. We had to take turns holding the roof down and releasing the water it had collected.

The deluge helped us to get to know each other better and we had a great deal of fun in spite of the rain. When we had eaten the great lunch and told as many stories as we could remember, we packed up. And when we were done



Save the date, because on Friday, October 26th, The Mercedes-Benz Center at Keeler Motor Car Company will be hosting its annual Customer Appreciation Party, and this year it's going to be a Halloween Bash!

It will be an exciting evening of food and fun, and as usual, you'll be able to take a close-up look at the latest and greatest Mercedes-Benz and Sprinter models. We'll be pulling out all the stops for our Halloween Bash, and while costumes are optional, there will be contests for everyone who decides to dress up - you will even be eligible for some amazing door prizes!

So be sure to save the date - invitations will be sent as we get closer to Halloween!



..... The sun came out. We had a good time anyway, maybe next year will be drier.



The Mercedes-Benz SLS Class



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