



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Hudson Mohawk Section



SPRING NEWSLETTER MARCH 2012

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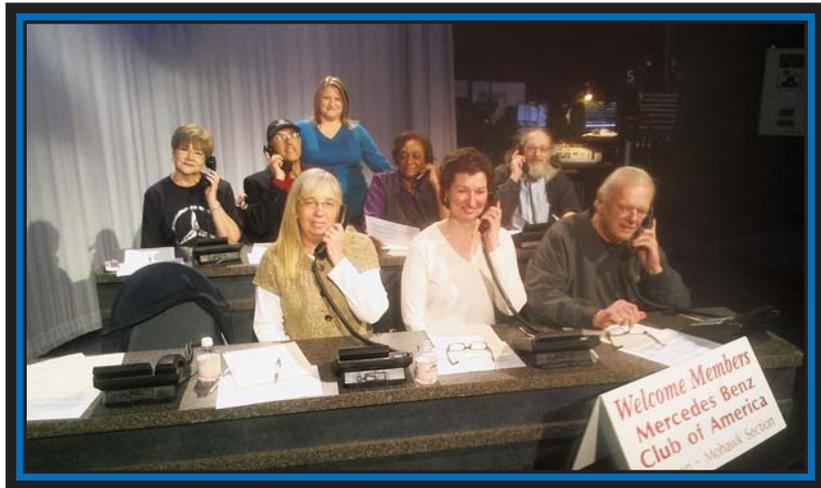
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HUDMO Volunteers Help Raise \$\$ for WMHT



Shown here are volunteers: Barbara Trimarchi, Chuck Trimarchi, Lynn Valentino, Saundra Griffin, James Wright (not shown), Carlene Thusgaard, Maureen Gara, Ron Tanner

(photo by James Wright)

It is the mission of the Hudson-Mohawk chapter of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to help and participate in important community events. Our membership chairperson, Saundra Griffin, suggested that we assist in the annual spring fund-raiser for capital district public television and radio station WMHT. Saundra always has great ideas and this was one of the best yet. She is very active in community groups and her church. She brings to our club a spirit of optimism and a can do attitude.

Our group answered phones, took pledges and provided information from five PM to eleven PM on Saturday February twenty-fifth at their studios in Troy, New York. We all had a great time and received pledges of more than ten thousand dollars. President Ron Tanner said "We will add WMHT's fund raisers to our calendar of events." Perhaps we could provide the same type of support in your community if you live outside of the Albany area.



Senior Scott Sauer, Vice President & Assistant GM at WMHT
Saundra Griffin, Membership Chairman, Hudson-Mohawk MBCA
(photo by James Wright)



President's Message



Well here we go, spring is here and we have a great driving season ahead of us. This year we will add some new events and repeat the most popular activities. We invite your ideas and suggestions for locations for events. While all the details have not been worked out we will have a New Member luncheon, our annual show, a wine tour, a members' picnic and for the first time we will be joining the various New England Sections for their annual Fall Foliage Tour. This year it will be in the Berkshires. It will be a two night event. Last year drew almost forty cars.

One of our most active Board members will be leaving the Board due to personal reasons, we are seeking to fill this spot with a new Board member. If you would like to serve the balance of a two year term, please contact me. As I write this our treasury is near an all-time high and we will use some of these funds to make sure each of our events is exciting and adequately funded.

This issue has a new feature highlighting one of our members, Phillip Caruso, who was indeed a delight to interview and we will continue to bring you interesting stories about the folks who

make up our membership. If you or someone you know would like to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter please let me or Jim Wright know.

Please keep a watch in your e-mails or on our website (www.mbca-hudmo.org) for announcements about all activities within the club. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event, happy motoring.

Ron Tanner
President

The Mercedes-Benz Center at Keeler Motor Car Company Recognized as MERCEDES-BENZ BEST OF THE BEST DEALER



(Latham, New York, February 23, 2012)---Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) announced today that The Mercedes-Benz Center at Keeler Motor Car Company has received the prestigious Mercedes-Benz Best of the Best Dealer Recognition Award based on its outstanding performance in 2011. The Mercedes-Benz Center was presented the award as a tribute to its success as an independent entrepreneur who routinely exceeds the expectations of Mercedes-Benz owners.

This year, MBUSA is recognizing the top 15 percent of its retail network with the Best of the Best recognition. The award, which is presented annually, goes to top performing Mercedes-Benz dealerships for demonstrating superior performance in various areas of their business, including customer satisfaction, new vehicle sales, certified pre-owned sales, leadership and management, parts operation, and market penetration.

“These dealers represent the essence of the Mercedes-Benz brand: an enduring commitment to excellence combined with an entrepreneurial spirit and the absolute dedication to customer satisfaction”, said Steve Cannon, president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz USA. “These are dealers who

believe, as we do, that the ultimate measure of success is not only business acumen but also meeting the expectations of each and every customer every time---no exceptions.”

Mercedes-Benz USA, headquartered in Montvale, New Jersey, is responsible for the sales and marketing of all Mercedes-Benz and Maybach products in the United States. For more than 40 years, MBUSA has taken pride in its commitments to the customer by providing superior quality luxury vehicles coupled with outstanding customer support. More information on MBUSA and its products can be found at www.mbusa.com and www.maybachusa.com.

Keeler motor car has won another “Best of the Best Award”. This is the second time. The first was in 2007 and again in 2011. This is one more acknowledgement for their superlative service and leadership in the MB community as well as all of the other automobile sales businesses in the upstate area. We are happy to congratulate Maria Dunning and her staff for their excellent service and customer care.

The Hudson Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club has a special relationship with Keeler. They sponsor many of our events and have donated, time, expertise, advice and sponsorship to the health and wellbeing of our club.

CONGRATULATIONS!



*Volunteers
continued from page 1*

Stephany Barna who has been working in member services for more than five years, explained how to fill out the pledge forms and answer questions from callers. She also provided us with pizza and beverages.

"I love my job and all the people I work with" said Lynn Valentino, a team leader and on-air personality. She kept us smiling and explained how intricate and unique WMHT programming is.

Scott Sauer, Senior VP & Assistant GM at WMHT, said "WMHT was founded 50 years ago in the basement of the Riverside School and from the very beginning, it has relied primarily on the community for its support. On-air fundraising campaigns are the most efficient and direct way to speak with WMHT audiences about the importance of audience support. Volunteer groups like the Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club play an important role in the success of the effort. After more than 20 years at WMHT, I still marvel at the generosity of our audience and our volunteers. Thank you to the members of the Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club for your support."

Phil Caruso Lensman of the Stars



"We are beginning a series of articles about our members and interesting aspects of their lives. We hope that if you have something interesting to share you will contact us and allow other members to hear your story."

For this edition I thought it might be interesting to talk to Phillip Caruso. I spoke to him just two days after the Academy Awards. You will see why this is important after I introduce him to you. Phil was born in New Orleans and attended Loyola University of New Orleans. He, his wife Katherine, fourteen year old son Vincent, and sixteen year old daughter Sarah enjoy upstate New York from their home in Averill Park. Beginning with his father there has been a long history of loyalty to the Mercedes-Benz brand. Phil currently drives an S420. He has previously owned an E320 wagon and a 1979 450SL. His favorite was the 450SL. He does however still own a 1979 MG Midget, go figure.

He joined the Mercedes-Benz Club of America in 1979. Over the years Phil's career has taken him away from home for as long as six months at a time but at least for now he is traveling less and spending valuable time with his family.

Now back to the previously mentioned Academy Awards, Phil is a professional photographer working exclusively in the motion picture industry. As a youngster he worked with his father who was a cameraman, writer, producer of documentaries and feature films in the nineteen fifties and sixties. His experience and career grew and he began working with Ron Howard. After three years with Howard he was asked to become an on-call photographer for Robert De Niro, Tribeca and Canal Productions. That experience moved him from Los Angeles to New York and introduced him to Martin Scorsese, Capra Films, he then became their photographer. His unique working talent enabled him to work throughout the industry on more than 100 film projects with directors Ron Howard, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, Barry Levinson, Robert Zemeckis, Terry Giliam, John Waters and many more. His work has been featured in several one man shows in some of the most prestigious photo galleries in the country. His list of Photography Awards is very impressive.

While watching the Oscars with his family he saw many of the actors and directors that he had come to know over the years. It was much to his surprise and delight that Meryl Streep was named best actress for her role as Margret Thatcher in the movie "The Iron Lady". Wow, he has worked with Meryl Streep. What a lucky guy. So how many other famous actors and directors does he know? The list would be too long for the limited space we have. This month (March 2012) HBO aired a film called "Game Change" starring Ed Harris as John McCain in which Phil did the still photography. Phil worked on five films in 2011, you can see a list of the films he has worked on by going to www.phillipcaruso.com, click on the center link and it will take you to the list.

You will often see Phil and son Vincent at our Tech Sessions and our annual Section show as well as other events. From what I have observed Vincent has begun to appreciate the Mercedes brand as much as Phil does. As you would suspect Phil has used his Mercedes in the background of several films and was once asked to have an actor drive one of his cars in a film to which he agreed until they told him they would have to paint it black, apparently he does not like black cars. We would like to thank Phil for sharing his work experience with us and wish him well with future projects.

Ron Tanner



George van der Wouden Helps Youth Gain Marketable Job Skills in the Automotive Industry at Glenmont Job Corps Academy



*Back Row (left to right): Bruce Wiltbank, Sawyer Chevrolet; Carlos Donn, Sawyer Chevrolet; George van der Wouden, Auto Instructor, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; Richard Wahl, Monro Muffler/Brake ; David Hunt, Hunt's Machine; Deborah Snape, Deputy Center Director, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; Tony Kossman, Automotive Department, Hudson Valley Community College; Vince DeSalvatore, Auto Instructor, Glenmont Job Corps Academy
Front Row (left to right): Amy Scharf, Business/Community Liaison, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; Al Van Sleet, Retired Mechanic; Mary Ann Harvey, Career Technical Training Manager, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; Earl Decker, Auto Student, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; Scott Allyn, Monroe Muffler/Brake; Wilfredo Battistini Jr, Auto Student, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; James Arnold, Auto Student, Glenmont Job Corps Academy; Rodney Butler, Center Director, Glenmont Job Corps Academy*

A program was held at the Glenmont Job Corps to solicit community support and to encourage continued participation by current stake holders. George van der Wouden was a presenter.

George is a member of Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club and the chapter treasurer.

He is an automotive instructor at Glenmont Job Corps in Bethlehem, NY, where he trains youth aged 16 through 24. These students need a trade to be able to earn a good living. George teaches them technical skills that help to get certifications in automotive technologies. He also serves as a counselor and assists them in getting high school diplomas and GEDs.

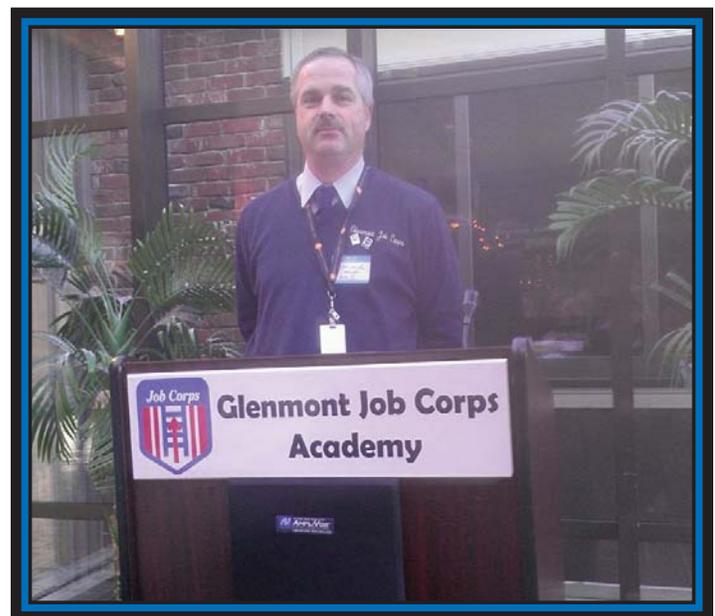
His students have restored a 1986 Chevy C10 which is nearly complete. They installed a replacement interior, brake system, fuel system, a rebuilt 305 standard shift conversion, a 4-speed Saginaw transmission and posi-traction.

George is certified as an automotive instructor, Drivers Education instructor, NCCER (National Certification for Career Education and Research) instructor (in both core building construction and green buildings). He has taught at Northeast Parent and Child, Hudson Valley Community College, and Capitol Region BOCES.

In the fall of 2011 he received the Vic Mion Distinguished Service Award for sustained contributions from Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County, Inc.. George conducts a bi-monthly volunteer day with students from Job Corps in conjunction with habitat, equinox of Albany, NY, and other non-profit organizations.

George and his wife Lynn will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on June 13th of this year. They have three children, Timothy, twenty-two, Steven twenty and Sarah sixteen.

George owns a black 1988 Mercedes 300 SEL, a dark blue 1987 300SD, and a white 1992 190E. "My hobbies include automotive restoration, green home energy star rated repairs, and long walks with Lynn. My sons and I love to restore and repair vehicles." George said.





Car Tips

A new feature we are trying for the newsletter is: "what do you need to do to keep your Benz in tip top shape and make it more fun to drive and admire?"

With that in mind, I will pose the first question.

How do you remove pine tar from your vehicle without damaging the paint?

RICK WALKER

Good afternoon, my detail department uses denatured alcohol to remove pine sap. A plastic razor blade can be used to remove the majority and the alcohol for the rest.

Also remember to apply a good coat of high quality wax in the spring and fall, at least, to help prevent penetration into the paint.

This sounds like a good column for the newsletter. I'm sure questions like how to maintain tire life, what to do about ever increasing alcohol content in the fuel of limited use vehicles, what oil to use in older non-roller cam engines, how often to service "life-time fill" transmissions, etc. should be interesting reading for most.

RON TANNER

I use Turtle Wax Bug and Tar Remover, spray on, wait about a minute and using a microfiber cloth wipe gently. Be sure surface is cool to the touch.

STANLEY ROSENBERG

Carefully! If it is one spot, use a soft cloth soaked in mineral spirits and rub gently. Clay may work if it is very light and over a large area. I demonstrated the use of clay a few years ago at one of our shows in Queensbury. Do a test spot first. Let me know the results. Make sure to apply a good quality wax to the area after all contaminants are removed.

I will not wait until the quarterly newsletter to answer your questions. I will email you as soon as I receive the answers. I am assembling a panel of experts to help you. I will publish the most interesting questions and answers. If you did not see your questions or answers, fear not, I will email a supplement to the "Brain Trust" and "Car Tips"

Our group is very diverse and has among its members all manner of skills and disciplines, almost anything you can imagine is included in our membership. So if you can "THINK IT" SOMEONE IN HUDMO KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT IT. LET'S SHARE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, OUR KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTING STORIES. DON'T BE A BYSTANDER. HELP US MAKE THIS THE BEST CLUB EVER. PARTICIPATE.

All feedback is appreciated.

Jim

TIM VAN DER WOUDE

A great way to remove pine tree sap without hurting your car's finish, is to use a soft terry cloth and some rubbing alcohol. Apply just a touch of alcohol to the towel, then wipe the area in a circular motion until all the sap is removed. It may take more than one application to remove the spot entirely. After sap is removed, use a microfiber towel and some quick detailer or quick wax to resine the area to pre-sap condition!

Note: If you prefer to use the alcohol with microfiber towels, that's an idea too. Although, personal experience has shown me that they don't remove as much pine sap as terry towels, and therefore require more passes/applications to remove. Sometimes, you may end up leaving a ring of sap behind due to the softness of the microfiber composition. (T-shirts are not recommended because they can leave tiny scratches in the vehicle's clearcoat.)

BOB ENSIGN

President, Ensign Autobody Inc.

It would be advisable to remove pine sap immediately or at least as soon as possible. Rubbing alcohol is the best product to use. Please use a soft cloth and rub gently. Let the product do the work for you.

Rubbing alcohol will not harm factory applied paint but it has been known to damage motorcars that have been repainted with lower quality or un-hardened paints. It is advisable to do a test area that is rarely seen first to prevent the possibility of causing damage to the exterior paint.

We should also be aware that if pine sap is allowed to dry out (even on factory applied Mercedes Paint) it will cause permanent stains down to the metal.

If there is interest, I would happily conduct an open house to help educate club members about the best practices of exterior paint care.

Happy motoring.

SAL J. DE FINI

Deputy Practice Leader
Global Energy

Here is a question: how do you prevent little Critters (field mice) from getting up under your hood? I pretty much use my 2003 SLK on the weekends (less in the winter). The car is in the garage but it doesn't take much of a crack for them to get in and out of the cold and then they seem to love the quiet and solitude on my engine block. Any suggestions?

JOHN TRELA
Get a big cat!





Carlene Thusgaard and Werner Stiegler received awards for Board member of the year and member of the year



Carlene Thusgaard and Werner Stiegler received national awards for outstanding service to the Hudson-Mohawk Section. As you should know Carlene is responsible for publishing our stylish, professional quarterly newsletter. While we can't afford to pay her we can acknowledge how much we appreciate her talent and skill. She is also a board member.

Werner is a very loyal member who commutes great distances to assist in all of our events and projects and has promoted some very successful events of his own. We need more members to participate on the same level as he does. When a helping hand is needed he is there; especially if you're talking about repairing or rebuilding SLs.

Congratulations to Carlene and Werner

COMING EVENTS

- March 24, 2012Tech event @ Keeler Motor Car Co., Latham
- April, 2012.....New Member Luncheon
- May, 2012.....Tech event @ Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls
- June, 2012.....Hemmings Car Show - Starfest
- July 8, 2012.....Car Show
.....at Locust Grove & Hudson Valley Auto Enthusiast, Inc.
- August, 2012Saratoga Polo & Track Day
- September, 2012.....Wine Tour
- October, 2012.....Rhinebeck Rally & Fall Foliage Tour
- November, 2012.....Charity Dance
- December, 2012Holiday Party

NEW MEMBERS

- Jeffrey GruberSchroon Lake, NY
- Todd LeprePleasant Valley, NY
- John Morabito.....Queensbury, NY
- Robert Trimarchi.....Wilton, NY
- Don WilsonNew Windsor, NY
- Charles R. Yarton.....New Windsor, NY

We send our condolences to Leonard Comithier who lost his mother Lucinda E. Comithier in February. She was a church musician for more than fifty years and loved by all who new her.



News from National

By Lisa A. Juhl, Director of Marketing
Mercedes-Benz Club of America



Hudson-Mohawk Section Members, as director of marketing for MBCA I am delighted to share this report on our exciting calendar of events. This year, the MBCA will host two very special events — Legends of the Autobahn 2012 and Star Fest® 2012. We hope you will consider coming to one or both of them.

February 1st marked my two-year anniversary and it has been great getting to know our members and helping to create activities and events that promise to please you.

Legends of the Autobahn, or “Legends,” will celebrate its third year this August. I attended the inaugural “Legends” in 2010 and can enthusiastically say that this event offers great activities for everyone. This year’s “Legends” will take place Friday, August 17, two days before the famed Pebble Beach Concours, on the exquisite California coastline. There will be new, classic and collector German cars and a ceremony choosing and celebrating the best of the best. Early word has it that a special display of Gullwings will be featured this year along with other rarely-seen classic Mercedes-Benz.

In 2010 and 2011, Legends was hosted by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, the BMW Car Club of America and by Porsche Club of America, three legendary German marques together for one day; hence the name, Legends of the Autobahn. This year, Audi Club of North America will join the trifecta making Legends 2012 one of the largest multi-marque events in the country.

As in previous years, Legends will be held on the rolling green lawns of the Rancho Canada Golf Club in the Carmel Valley. It is just a stone’s throw from Pebble Beach. The scenery in this part of the country is breathtaking. The deep green of the grass and azure-blue sparkle of the Pacific Ocean is more captivating in person than when seen at the Pebble Beach Pro Golf Classic on TV.

The event is free. The day offers four separate Concours judging sites, one for each car club. There will be combined corral parking areas, where, you’ll find food, club tents, club merchandise and more than five hundred vehicles on display.

If you work up a sweat from the hot summer sun or from being around such beautiful vehicles, you can cool off with a cold one from the Spaten Biergarten.

This Concours event attracts many celebrities so your chance of seeing famous people and movie stars is extremely high. This is a must-see event of the world-renowned Monterey, California Classic Car Week. Local media is usually present to report on the day’s activities.

Don’t miss the fun! Come casual and as you are. It’s California. Anything goes here! Please visit www.motorsportreg.com to register. Scroll to “August 17” then “MBCA — Legends of the Autobahn.” Or contact Laura Simonds, MBCA National Treasurer and Legends Event Chair at simondsl@pacbell.net for information and registration details.

StarFest® 2012. StarFest®, is the premier national event of the MBCA. This year, StarFest® will be held in sun-drenched Phoenix, Arizona from September 28-October 3. You can make arrangements to stay at the Arizona Biltmore, a Waldorf Astoria hotel, for just \$169/night, a savings of 35% off the regular room rate. The Hotel is located on thirty-nine acres with lush gardens, eight pools, seven tennis courts, a full service spa, a salon and a fitness center. It’s a great place for men and ladies. The Biltmore also offers two 18-hole PGA golf courses. There will be wine tastings and movie viewings at the hotel.

Concours events will be held Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30. Both will be on the lawns of the Biltmore. To rev up your engines, members will have the opportunity to race at the Firebird International Raceway, the same raceway that hosts the NHRA Arizona Nationals. Put the pedal to the metal on their quarter-mile drag-strip during StarFest®’s fast-paced acceleration runs or test your skill with the Firebird 1.6 mile track during StarFest®’s time trials.

All this is waiting for you plus, Wayne Carini, popular host of TV’s “Chasing Classic Cars”, who will be at StarFest® to meet and mingle with guests throughout the weekend.

Day and evening temperatures in Arizona in early October are nothing short of ideal. If you and your family haven’t made plans for a fall vacation yet, StarFest® could be everything you’re looking for ... and more.

Please go to www.starfest2012.com today to reserve your hotel room and enter your vehicle(s) in what promises to be the BEST StarFest® ever!

Lisa A. Juhl is a Connecticut native currently residing in Colorado Springs, Colorado with her husband and two children. Lisa has over 25 years’ experience in marketing, advertising and sales promotion having worked for Fortune 500 clients that include Nabisco, Pepsi and the New York Mets. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys cooking, true-crime TV, jet-skiing and boating (outside of land-locked Colorado!).

The Mercedes-Benz SLS Class



Mercedes-Benz

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