



Hudson Mohawk Section

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY 2013

STARS at the SPA Special Edition

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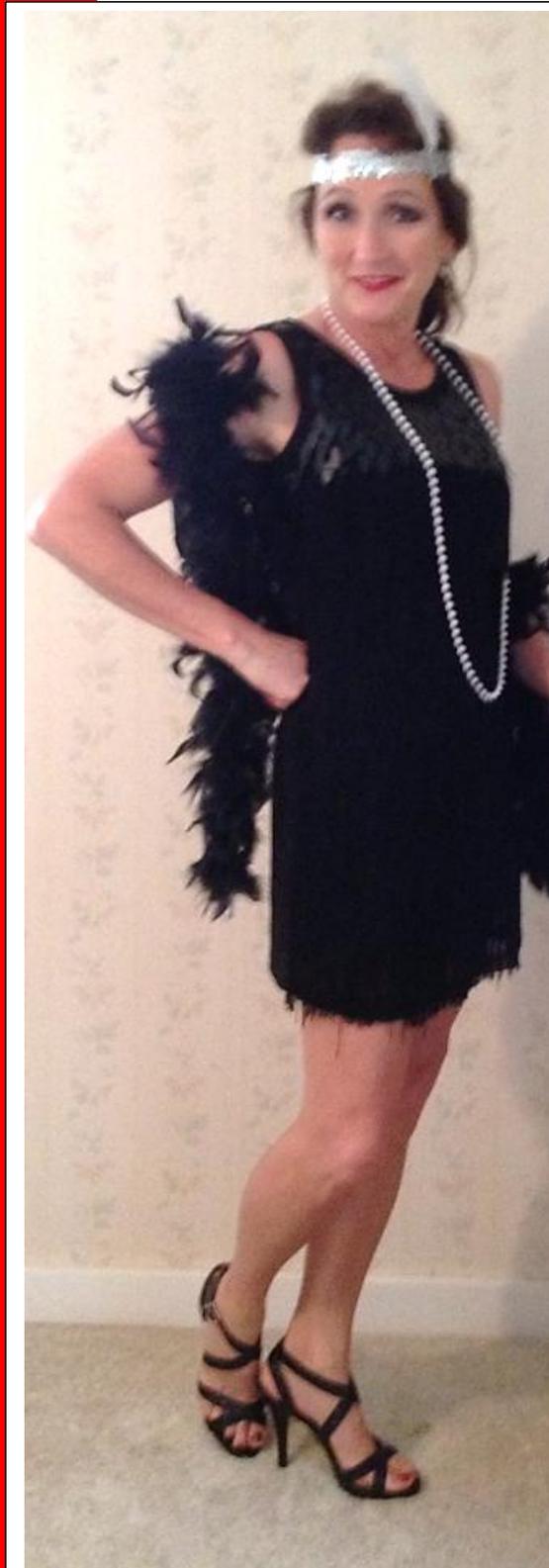
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Come to "Stars at the Spa" on Saturday July 13th. Start your weekend Friday evening at a special "Meet and Greet" at the Gideon Putnam Hotel. Bring your favorite BENZ, your best Gatsby outfit, your cutest flapper, and your finest picnic basket display, and you may win a prize or two. You can take some photos with our Gatsby Girl if you don't have your own. There will be hotdogs and burgers to enjoy, and a roving Jazzman. After the show and award presentations there will be a cocktail hour and sit down dinner at the Gideon Putnam.

Saratoga has many venues that are fun and entertaining. SPAC, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center is the summer home for the New York City Ballet and they are in residence right now. Miles of hiking trails are available in Saratoga State park as well as mineral baths and massages. People come from near and far to get famous Saratoga mineral water that is believed to have healing powers. The flat track season is about to start and it is one stop that many triple-crown winners make. The harness track is open now. Many historical monuments are in the Saratoga region. Downtown is noted for its clubs, dining and high level shopping emporiums. The grand promenade up Broadway reveals fabulous homes that you may have seen in Architectural Digest or Home and Garden TV.

"SARATOGA IS THE SUMMER PLACE TO BE".

STARS at the SPA Special Summer Edition



Ernie Fancy is our Northeast Regional Director. The following article was excerpted from a recent story in the Star Magazine, "Ernie Fancy, Consummate Club Member" by Jennifer L. Grybowski

When Ernie Fancy joined his local section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America in 1976, he didn't realize that the club would become a way of life for him. This year, the Northeast Regional Director and Minuteman Section treasurer celebrates 37 years with the MBCA, making him one of its longest, continuously active members. "It's the people you meet, the conversations you have and the friends you develop," he said about what keeps him involved.

Fancy has owned a 1972 250 sedan, a 1976 300D, a 1969 280SL and a 1960 220SE. Ernie said his favorite car so far is the one he owns now – a 2010 E350. "It's got all the new features," he said. While he originally joined the club to get the inside track on parts and restoration tips, he stayed for other reasons. "I stayed because of the people I met in the club and they did a lot of fun things, a lot of driving events," Fancy said. "We would go to Otis Air Force Base and set up obstacle courses out of pylons, doing timed events, gymkhanas or autocrosses. Doing that, I made a lot of friends."

Fancy went on to become president of the local section – twice – and has held every other office in the Minuteman Section. He was appointed as Northeast Regional Director, serving from 1990 to 1998, overseeing nine sections from Connecticut to Nova Scotia, making site visits, helping with regional events and attending national board meetings. "Anything you can do to help out the clubs," he said.

After relinquishing his Northeast Regional Director title, Fancy returned to his Minuteman Section as the director, the past four years as treasurer. "It gets to be a part of your life," he said. "It's the people you meet, talking about the cars." In fact, it was such a large part of his and wife Bonnie's lifestyle that it became a family affair. When their two boys were young, they would help set up the gymkhanas and the Section's Farber Rallye. "They were always with us in the backseat," Fancy said of his children. "Traveling to events or shows turned into vacations for us. We've gone to a lot more places than we would have and saw more roads that we ever thought we'd see in a lifetime if we didn't do these things." Fancy said he has developed lifelong friendships because of the club. "People move on and we still correspond," he said. "When somebody is interested in the same cars, there is a connection there – where to find parts, our trials, our tribulations. Knowing people helps you. They may have a part you need and you learn who and who not to go to. If you like cars, this is a good place to get connected."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George	Bigaouette	47 Commons Blvd	Clifton Park	NY
John	Capozzola	20 Plymouth Ave	Delmar	NY
Garry	Dallman	13 Croswell St	Albany	NY
Robert	Everett	11 Ravine St	Kingston	NY
Harry	Furtunis	139 Dogwood Ln	Newburgh	NY
George	Hannah	7 Timber Trace	Ballston Spa	NY
Marsha	Himler	22 Route 423	Stillwater	NY
John	Kelty	3 Kings Mill Ct	Albany	NY
Andreas	Zambas	209 City View Ter	Kingston	NY
James O Reilly		36 Lagoon Manor Drive	Bolton Landing	NY

Upcoming Events To Be Remembered:

***Labor Day - Mon. Sep. 2 - A Day at the Races at Saratoga Race Track.**
Join us at the famous Saratoga Race Track for a day of food, music and, of course, races. We will have a reserved place on the home stretch in an air conditioned tent. Great fun and a chance to win big! See you there, and good luck.

***Sat. Oct. 5 - Fall Rally and Tour**
Join with other Mercedes-Benz drivers as we do a challenging rally through beautiful hillside and horse country on roads seldom traveled. Rally will begin in Red Hook and have a surprise ending, save the date and bring your sense of adventure.

***The Hudson-Mohawk Section meets on the last Thursday of every month to discuss future events, relive past events, and to just enjoy the company of others. All members are welcome to attend the meetings. Contact any board member for details.**

Sadly we offer our condolences to Vincent Sfara. His wife Karen, who was an active member, recently passed away. Karen had a 1986 560SL that she kept in mint condition that is now for sale. It was purchased from Keeler Motor Car Company in Latham and only serviced there. Much like Karen the car is a real "class act". The exterior is perfect, a palomino color and the interior is dark brown leather. It is truly a collectors dream with only 31,146 miles. It is difficult for Vincent to have the car around because it is a constant reminder of losing Karen. If you are interested in purchasing it, please call him at 518 376 5467. Serious offers only please. Perhaps if a club member buys it Karen will still be travelling with us in spirit

Chuck Mitchell, a member and a good friend is recovering from a difficult medical condition that has kept him hospitalized for some time. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

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ORDER OF THE DAY

8:00 AM	VEHICLES ARRIVE
9:00 AM	MORNING COFFEE FOR OUR GUESTS
10:00 AM	MEET AND GREET, PREPARATION FOR JUDGING
11:00 AM	JUDGING BEGINS FOR VEHICLES
12:00 PM	GUESTS CAN GET A FREE CHEESEBURGER OR TWO HOTDOGS, A BEVERAGE IS INCLUDED
2:00 PM	JUDGING CLOSES, RAFFLE DRAWINGS BEGIN
3:00 PM	AWARD PRESENTATIONS by BOB McSHANE, ERNIE FANCY, RON TANNER, SAUNDRA GRIFFIN, BARBARA LAWSON, PHOTOS by KIRK DANIELS
6:00 – 7:00 PM	COCKTAIL HOUR, CASH BAR WELCOME by RON TANNER
7:00 PM	SHOW SUMMARY by BOB Mc SHANE, SLIDE SHOW, THE DAYS EVENTS by KIRK DANIELS
7:10 PM	DINNER IS SERVED
7:40 PM	RON TANNER INTRODUCES ERNIE FANCY, NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR
8:00 PM	ADDITIONAL AWARDS, JIM WRIGHT, THANK YOU

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Zachary Doell is a freelance automotive writer, and design contributor to the Saratoga Automobile Museum. He graduated in 2012 from Ithaca College with a bachelor's degree in Cinema and Photography, and enjoys watching Formula One racing."

We appreciate Zach writing this article for us. Hopefully this will be one tiny step as he proceeds on his successful career as an automotive journalist. Thanks Zach.

"Street Survival Program comes to Saratoga" The real performance was *outside* the Saratoga Performing Arts Center this past weekend, as over 20 young drivers tested their limits, as well as their cars, in the Tire Rack Street Survival program. The program, sponsored by the BMW Car Club of America Foundation, is designed to push young drivers to develop their skills on the road, and to reinforce good motoring habits – especially when parents aren't looking. With over 40 volunteers, there were enough instructors to provide each participant with one on one in-car training.

The action started bright and early as each student carefully inspected their vehicle with supervision from the instructors. Brake pressure was checked, tire pressures topped off, and dipsticks wiped and analyzed before everyone got the go ahead. The first activity of the day lived up to its name – the "wake up drill." Students lined their cars up and one by one accelerated hard to a first set of cones, then braked hard, trying to stop before the second set. Most cars passed the first challenge, with a few students really learning the limits of their anti-lock braking systems.

The students' early morning torpidity quickly gave way to eager smiles as the young drivers clambered out of their cars. Instructors split the drivers into two groups, which began to alternate between interactive classroom discussions and hands-on driving at the test track.

Laid out across the main lot in front of SPAC, the course featured a variety of obstacles that would challenge the young drivers, including a slalom, a lane merging simulation, and a full-size skid pad (the crowd favorite). The slalom featured a series of cones equally spaced apart, requiring the driver to maintain speed while weaving in and out between the cones. The majority of cars used were front-wheel drive sedans, some of which had trouble maneuvering the slalom, however over the course of the day the drivers began to find the cars' limits of understeer.

Nothing demonstrated understeer quite as well as a trip around the very slick skidpad (freshly soaked by fire trucks from the Malta Ridge Fire Department and Milton Fire District #1). The slick pavement helped demonstrate to students the unexpectedness of a loss of grip. Even though your wheels are pointing one way, doesn't mean your car will necessarily follow suit. The students didn't get to have all the fun either. Parents and spectators had a few good laughs watching the students figure things out for themselves. One young driver worked tirelessly to keep his Kia Sedona minivan on course while sliding around the parking lot – all in the interest of learning.

Saratoga Automobile Museum Director of Education, Seth Warden, spoke highly of the program. "It was a no-brainer to bring Street Survival to the museum, it fits our mission to educate, and the kids definitely learned a new skill set." Following an award ceremony and group picture, the students were encouraged to take their parents for a ride on the track to demonstrate what they had learned.

"The best thing about the program is that it teaches students real life scenarios before they happen in real life." The program returns to New York State on July 13th, at Monroe Community College, in Rochester.



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TELL US WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF OUR EVENT

Are you a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America? _____

Which section do you belong to? _____

What did you like the most? _____

Which cars were most impressive? _____

What was your favorite part of the show? _____

What would you change, add or eliminate? _____

Would you like to be notified of future events? _____

Email _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Address _____

Have you been to the Saratoga Automobile Museum before? _____

Did see anyone you know today? _____

Where did you find out about the "Stars at the Spa" car show? _____

How many miles did you travel to get here? _____

Did you enter a vehicle in the show? _____

Is there anything that you would like to share with us? _____

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President's message

The great weather is here and so the excitement for upcoming events is growing. Not to be missed is the July 13, 2013 Regional Car show. This show will combine the best of the new and old Mercedes-Benz cars. There will be a class for every car whether it is Concours D'Elegance or people's choice you will be able to find a category for your car. Clean it up and bring it to this great event being held within the beautiful Saratoga State Park. Complete details and registration forms are within this edition of your Newsletter.

Being designated a Regional event we expect cars from all of New England and most of New York. The Hudson-Mohawk Section and the Car Show Committee have put a great deal of effort and money into making the activity a great success, your participation will make it even more successful. If you would like to judge or help out the day of the show please contact Show Host Jim Wright, thanks, see you there.

Next staying in Saratoga Springs we will be at the racetrack on Labor Day the last day of racing for the season. In celebration of the tracks 150 years of excitement this is sure to be a special day, food, music and the thrill of the races themselves. Sandra Griffin is coordinating this and you hear more from her as the date nears.

We will follow this up with our annual Fall Foliage Tour and Rally on October 5, 2013. We are very excited with the routes we have driven in beautiful Columbia and Dutchess counties. This should be a very challenging rally as we pass through areas seldom traveled of rolling hills and outstanding horse farms. Get up your spirit of adventure and plan to join us. More details will follow.

We are all very busy planning for this summer, our treasury is now at an all time high, as is our membership. This is all due to your participation in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and all the advantages it has to offer. Thank you.

Here are some of the many interesting things to see and do in Saratoga, "The Summer Place to Be." This list includes cultural activities, outdoor experiences, entertainment venues, fine dining, and unique shopping experiences.

The Dance Museum

Adelphi Hotel

Yaddo Artist Colony

Tang Museum at Skidmore College

The Canfield Casino

Saratoga Race track

Saratoga Polo Club

Saratoga Performing Arts Center

Roosevelt Baths

Saratoga Hall of Springs

Saratoga National Golf Club

Historic Saratoga Battlefield

Saratoga Harness Track

The Saratoga Racino

Druthers Brewing Company

Café Lena

Hattie's Chicken Shack

9 Maple Jazz Club

1 Caroline Jazz Club

A leisurely stroll down Broadway will reveal sidewalk cafés, fine dining, and a vast variety of unique shops, famous period architecture, street musicians, and sketch artists. You are just as likely to see a chauffeured limousine as you are a classic dune buggy and bearded Harley riders, with all of the owners sitting together at an outdoor café listening to jazz.



Hudson - Mohawk Section

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The HUDSON-MOHAWK MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB announces a
NORTHEAST REGIONAL CARSHOW in Saratoga Springs, NY.

“Stars at the Spa” automobile show Saturday July 13, 2013.

To assignment editors in television, printed news, internet news, bloggers and those who are responsible for coverage of local and regional events: This will be a great opportunity to make your audiences aware of a regional event that will feature some of the finest examples of the Mercedes-Benz motor car in the northeast. This region includes cars from Maine to New Jersey. There will be vintage cars more than twenty five years old and others that are more current as well as two brand new models supplied by KEELER MOTOR CAR of Latham, NY. Some of these cars were used to provide authentic props for period movies.

The public will be allowed to view these automobiles and discuss them with their proud owners. The Saratoga State Park and owners and their families in clothes reminiscent of the golden age of Saratoga will provide great footage and still shots. Many of our members have great stories and have historical knowledge that will be fun to hear and will educate radio listeners as well. If you need more information contact: Jim Wright HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com

Location: Saratoga Auto Museum, 110 Ave of the Pines, Saratoga Springs, New York, 12866
Telephone: 518.587.1935 | fax: 518.587.4149

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM - Registration:

11:00 AM - All cars in place and detailing ends

12:00 PM until 2:00 PM - Judging

Competition classes include, modern (15 years or younger), classic (50 years or younger) antique (over 50 years old) with both Concours, Concours d'Elegance and popular choice, (to be judged by the public).

Awards will be given for the best picnic setup and the most authentic festive attire depicting the dress for picnics and celebrations in the early elegant days of Saratoga Springs. Start putting your period outfits together today and join us for the fun. There will be music, fashion, food, fun and great fellowship.

The entry fee for non-members is \$49.00. This will include a free membership to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. If you want to attend the dinner the cost for both registration and dinner for non-members will be \$99.00.

Updated information can be obtained at: www.discoversaratoga.org/lawnshow13

<http://mbca.org/event/2013-07-13/regional-car-show-saratoga-automobile-museum>

www.mbca-hudmo.com

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STARS at the SPA

Saturday July 13, at the Saratoga Auto Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY



Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Hudson-Mohawk Section

Ron Tanner, President
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