



# Hudson Mohawk Section

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

HOLIDAY EDITION 2013

## RON TANNER RETIRES

SPECIAL ISSUE

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During the past six years the Hudson-Mohawk Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, (HUDMO), has expanded its membership; created more diverse programs for its members; made more charitable donations of money and volunteer time and increased its bottom line. The treasury is at the highest level it has ever been. All of these things were accomplished under the stewardship of Ron Tanner, our president. "I am proud of what the Board and I have been able to accomplish over the past six years", Tanner said.

Ron is retiring from the day to day rigors of the top administrative spot to spend more time helping to strengthen the club while allowing himself more time for his family and driving adventures. He has three sons, Ron, Curt and Doug and three grandsons.

Although Ron is retired, he spends most of his days working for Habitat for Humanity. Ron was named Columbia County's Habitat for Humanity, "Volunteer of the Year for 2013". He also received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition "for outstanding and invaluable service to the community", from the US Congress.

"I love the open road with the top down and driving to places I have never seen before" "The route 66 trip taking me from New York to California was certainly a great automobile adventure", Ron said. His next big trip will be the "Great Race" in the spring from June 21 to 29<sup>th</sup> 2014. It starts in Ogunquit Maine and ends in the Villages in Florida. Only vehicles that are forty-one years old or older are allowed to compete. It is a time and distance endurance race with very strict rules and very large prizes. \$50,000 is first prize. The admission is \$5,000 for the owner, operator, who must be the driver. \$150,000 will be spent by the organizers of this race. Ron will be bringing along Bob McShane a HUDMO club member as his navigator.

One of Ron's specialties is being the clubs "Rallye Master" so it will be a special treat for him to enjoy being a participant. He has led the club on many driving events, wine tours and very difficult rallies, which have been a great deal of fun for all.

Ron has been a Benz enthusiast for a long time and has owned four of them. Two of them were 450SLs and two are a white 1967 250SL and a green 1968 250SL. He will be driving the 1967 in the great race. He will enter his 1967 250SL in the 2014 Hemmings Concours d'Elegance. Ron has won too many awards to count, but if he wins the "Great Race", he will not only be richer but it will be his proudest achievement.

Before Ron retired from his day job, he ran his own business as a consultant advising clients on the best locations to locate retail businesses. He consulted all over the United States, but in the fifteen years before his retirement he concentrated his efforts only in the North East. We are sure that he used his experience and business acumen to help HUDMO grow and prosper.

Ron said, "While our membership was growing so were the number of friends I have made, for that I will always be grateful. I plan to keep active within the club. I hope to make many more friends at future events".

### **Outgoing President's message**

Our most recent events were a great success, a "Day at the Races" had 40 members and guests who enjoyed their day at Saratoga Race Course. I can attest to the fact that not all were winners. This was followed up by a wonderful rally through the horse country of Dutchess and Columbia counties. Fifteen cars left the starting line and to our amazement 15 made it to the finish of this very challenging course. The day finished with a great deal of sharing in the experiences of the day, a wonderful lunch on the Hudson River at the Rhinecliff Hotel, we will do another next year.

As your president this is my last newsletter after six great years as your President I have chosen not to seek re-election. It has been six years of some work but mostly a very enjoyable and rewarding experiences highlighted by the wonderful members whom I now consider my friends and I plan to continue my activities with the club which will allow me to keep in touch with all those I have met. During my three terms I have had the honor of serving as President with the tireless members of the Board who have dedicated much time on behalf of you, our members. For their efforts I am very grateful.

I leave with the membership at an all-time high and the treasury stronger than ever thanks once again for your continued membership and the on-going work of the Board.

This message is not a good bye but an announcement of my stepping down as President, you will still see me at most of the clubs events and look for my name as host of one or two of them. I step down knowing that the club is strong and the newly elected Officers and Board members will continue to move the Hudson-Mohawk Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America ahead and toward a great future.

**We are looking forward to a very innovative and productive 2014. The board and I need your suggestions and participation to ensure that HUDMO continues to grow and prosper.**

**Please share with us any thoughts or ideas that will contribute to the recruitment of new members and the retention of current members.**

**Membership has many benefits. Discounts on purchases of vehicles as well as service visits are two very important ones, but most importantly sharing time with your friends and making new friends is the greatest one. Let's have some fun, learn about our cars and have a great driving season**

**Jim Wright, President.**

### **Meet Vickie Parker Our Newest Board Member**

Vickie Parker taught English, television production and was AV Coordinator at Schenectady High School for 35 years and actually made it to retirement virtually unscathed. She then took a librarian and professional development position at the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center where she still works part time providing professional development for teachers. During her tenure in this job, she gained certification from NYU for fundraising and grant writing and enthusiastically writes grants and teaches grant writing and grant searching to educators so they can gain funding for their new Common Core curriculum planning.



Summers you can find Vickie on the golf course indulging in one of her passions as many times a week as possible. She is not an outstanding golfer, and some days are better than others, but she did have a hole in one this summer! She also enjoys reading, gardening, working out at the gym, and being a skin care and color consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Vickie has always been a "car lover." Growing up with three brothers, she was exposed to all sorts of car love. Her first car was a Corvair followed by 2 Camaro's and then her first Corvette. She became a Corvette lover until the 90;s when they became touring cars instead of true sports cars. She is a member of the Chromettes, an all women's car club, which ran an annual car show until last year and had field trips to local junk yards for parts. She "saw the light" in 2007 when she sold her last Corvette and bought her first Mercedes SLK 280, a true sports car with amazing features. She now has a 2013 MB SLK which is spending its winter in its bubble in the garage, but which she enjoyed all summer and will look forward to driving next spring. She is excited about being on the Board of the HMMBC and would love to see its membership grow and enjoy more member participation.



Many of our members have the good fortune to be self-employed doing what they love. Tom Dobush of Bavarian Rocket Science is one who does just that. He has agreed to be a resource to help solve technical automotive problems and to publish a quarterly column in our newsletter featuring the latest innovations as well as some cures for the problems with the vintage cars we own and love.

#### What we do at R&D Automotive

You might not even notice it as you drive down North Pearl Street on the Northern end of downtown Albany if you weren't paying attention, and that is how they like it. Tucked away on the corner of Tivoli Street in the old industrial neighborhood that once housed many textile mills and various warehouses is a former carriage house that once was home to the horse stables for Freihofer's .

Today this building is home to a different type of horses, specifically the kind of horses that are kept under the hoods of all types of automobiles made in Germany. Rick Dobush bought the building in 1999 in order to house his expanding auto repair business. Not just any type of auto repair however, as suggested by the name of his shop, R&D Automotive: Bavarian Rocket Science focuses his expertise solely on the makes from Duetschland. While he admittedly prefers Porsches for the race track, when it comes to daily drivers he feels nothing beats the quality of vehicles manufactured by Mercedes-Benz, as proven, much to his chagrin, by his daily work horse: a 1989 300E sedan with well over 300k on the mile counter. Other vehicles in his stable include a 1998 Audi A6 station wagon with nearly 500k miles, as well as a spritely BMW 528i barely broken in with just under 90k on her and a few other Porsche road and track project cars.

With over 30 years of experience working with German cars, Rick is well known for sharing his knowledge in various enthusiast circles. Also for nearly 20 years, he has been handing down his knowledge to his nephew, Tom Dobush. Tom now plays a management role at the shop after honing his skills while studying at RPI and working for companies such as Bentley Publishers and Porsche of Boston. Experts when it comes to restoration and preservation of the classics, like the beautiful early 80's 560 SL currently being brought back to life in his shop, to maintenance and repair of modern daily drivers that are becoming ever more sophisticated in our computer controlled world. If you would like to learn more about what the Dobush's do at their shop give them a call, email or stop by and say hello.



Sandra Griffin, HUDMO membership chairperson, gave Brenda Twiggs, Vice President of the Albany District Links, and coordinator of the Food Basket Project, a donation of gift cards to add to Thanksgiving food baskets. Thirteen needy families in the Capital District will receive assistance during the holiday season and throughout the year. Members of the Albany District Links prepared baskets.

Sandra is tireless in her efforts to ensure that the HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION OF THE MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA always plays an important and necessary role in being good citizens.

She is also in charge of recruiting volunteers for fundraising for public TV and radio. If you have an idea for community service or you want to volunteer contact Sandra at PO box 38294 Albany, NY 12203

**In recognition for all she does for the Hudson-Mohawk Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Sandra E. Griffin is presented this Special Presidents Award for Excellence, Exuberance, Tenacity, Creativity, Dependability, Leadership and just plain old Hard Work. If you are in a war, you WANT Sandra to be in charge of getting you the bullets and making certain that your guns are in good firing condition. And she has a great sense of humor. Sometimes we take those who are helpful to us for granted and never tell them how valuable they are, but not this time. Sandra YOU ARE TERRIFIC AND EVERYONE ON THE BOARD HAS ONLY THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR YOU!  
James Raymond Wright, President**



Dave is the organizations “Ambassador of Good Will.” He loves people as much as he loves his car. Whenever we need someone to rally the troops and give them a pep talk, Dave’s our man.

He is a true renaissance man, an adventurer, scholar, activist, musician, farmer, sailor, world class story teller, bird watcher and the owner of a real fine motor cycle.

He lives in Schuylerville New York with his wife Hillary and a very large Collie dog. Hillary is also a scholar, a professor of music and an internationally known and respected composer. His house is very old and was used by revolutionary war generals. **Dave did not live there then.** When people talk about Bon vie bon, raconteur and Indiana Jones, they are talking about Dave. And he still has the suits and hats and tweedy jackets with patches on the elbows to prove it. He has traveled on a motorcycle the length of Africa and slept on the Serengeti and in villages with the indigenous people as he went. He is the living embodiment of adventure and courage. He has stories to tell and a great deal can be learned by just listening. Most of things people lie and brag about, Dave has actually done. I am still waiting for him to tell me where the revolutionary treasure is buried.

When I wanted to leave HUDMO Dave called me and encouraged me to stay. I did, but now that I am president he is leaving. Hmnnn! Well he is not really leaving but he is retiring from the board. After many years of being the secretary and the treasurer he is slowing down a bit and spending more time working on important personal projects. BUT He has promised that if we get in trouble and need him, we only have to turn on the bat signal, er I mean the Dave Light and he will return to HUDMO to save us.

Dave we have something special for you to use when you are tooling around with top down so everyone will know who you are. Jim!



**Glenn and Barbara Lawson add competence, artistic creativity, fun and reliability.**



Glenn and Barbara are receiving the national "You Make a Difference Award" for 2013 because they do. The recognition is only given to outstanding members who contribute above and beyond what great members do. Congratulations.

We are taking orders for HUDMO hats, tee shirts and windbreakers. Let everyone know you are proud to be a member. You'll look good too!



# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MERCEDES - BENZ

1. The name MERCEDES comes from:
  - a. Carl Benz's daughter's name
  - b. Kaiser Wilhelm's sister's name
  - c. Austrian Emil Jellinek's daughter's name
  - d. A Greek god
  
2. Which is not a 2014 Mercedes color:
  - a. Steel Grey Metallic
  - b. Polar White
  - c. Glacier Blue Metallic
  - d. Mars Red
  
3. What does ESP stand for in Mercedes speak:
  - a. E class Styling Program
  - b. Electronic Stereo Program
  - c. Engine Systems Planning
  - d. Electronic Stability Program
  
4. What year did the driver side air bag become standard on all Mercedes:
  - a. 1985
  - b. 1986
  - c. 1987
  - d. 1989
  
5. The Grand Mercedes 600 was introduced in:
  - a. 1963
  - b. 1965
  - c. 1968
  - d. 1970
  
6. The 300SL Gullwing Coupe was sold new between:
  - a. 1953 to 1963
  - b. 1955 to 1963
  - c. 1955 to 1957
  - d. 1954 to 1958
  
7. Mercedes first diesel powered car was the:
  - a. 180D
  - b. 190D
  - c. 260D
  - d. 300d

8. Who distributed Mercedes in the United States before MBUSA:
  - a. Studebaker / Packard
  - b. General Motors
  - c. Hudson
  - d. Volkswagen
  
9. Today a 300SL Gullwing Coupe will likely cost you \$700,000 to \$1,000,000+, what did it cost new approximately in 1955:
  - a. \$4,000
  - b. \$7,000
  - c. \$10,000
  - d. \$13,000
  
10. The Chrysler Crossfire was based upon what Mercedes:
  - a. C Class
  - b. SLK
  - c. SL
  - d. E Class Coupe
  
11. Who is the present head of Daimler Benz
  - a. Eurgen Schremp
  - b. Karl Hoffman
  - c. Fritz Benz
  - d. Dieter Zetsche
  
12. Which American truck manufacturer is part of Daimler Benz:
  - a. Freightliner
  - b. Mack
  - c. Ram
  - d. Brockway
  
13. Daimler Benz sold Chrysler to:
  - a. Fiat
  - b. Nissan
  - c. An investment group
  - d. Renault
  
14. In what year did Daimler and Benz merge to form Daimler Benz:
  - a. 1912
  - b. 1920
  - c. 1926
  - d. 1933

# The Mercedes-Benz SLS-Class



Mercedes-Benz

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## HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday December 7th, at the Marriott Hotel, Wolf Road, Albany, NY



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**  
**Hudson-Mohawk Section**

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