



# HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION Mercedes-Benz Club of America "TOP DOWN" The Fall Rally 2015



**NORTHEAST  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

Ernie Fancy  
fancyer@cox.net

**Section President**

Jim Wright  
26 Crystal Lane  
Delmar, New York 12054  
518.281.3406  
[HUDSONMOHAWKBCA@gmail.com](mailto:HUDSONMOHAWKBCA@gmail.com)

**Vice President**

Chuck Trimarchi  
61 Mordella Road  
Albany, New York 12205  
518.869.6542  
[chucktrimarchi@yahoo.com](mailto:chucktrimarchi@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter Editor**

Vickie Parker

**Treasurer**

George van der Wouden  
230 Central Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12304  
thevanderwoudenfamily  
@yahoo.com

**Membership Chairperson**

Sandra Griffin

**Photography**

Kirk Daniels

**Board of Directors**

Chuck Frigon  
Sandra Griffin  
Vickie Parker  
Herb Sodher  
Chuck Trimarchi  
George van der Wouden  
Tim van der Wouden  
Jim Wright

**Past Presidents**

Ron Tanner  
Ginnette Maslanka

**Technical Advisors**

Rick Walker  
[rick.walker@keeler.com](mailto:rick.walker@keeler.com)  
Dan Rothstein  
[drothstein@keeler.com](mailto:drothstein@keeler.com)  
Website Address  
MBCA-HudMo.com  
**Website Coordinator**  
Tim van derWouden  
[bigtrucksbigtires@yahoo.com](mailto:bigtrucksbigtires@yahoo.com)  
Webmaster Brett Kropf  
[Brett@kropf.com](mailto:Brett@kropf.com)

We have had a very innovative and productive 2015. The board and I need your ideas 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 benefit. Let's have some fun, learn about our cars and enjoy the remainder of the driving season.

We will have our annual holiday party on December.5th at the Albany Marriott Hotel.

We haven't been idle. We had our annual cabin fever lunch in Poughkeepsie at Shadows on the Hudson hosted by our board member at large, Werner Stiegler; our annual Tech Event at Keeler Motor Car, Latham , New York, hosted by Rick Walker and John Kelty of the Keeler service department and a trip to the drive-in to see Jurassic World and San Andreas, hosted by board member, Tim van der Wouden.

STARS AT THE SPA III. was our 23rd Annual car show. We thank Heidi Schull and the museum staff for allowing us to make the SARATOGA AUTO MUSEUM our car show home base. Their cooperation and support make every event a very special occasion.

We also have a special thank you for KEELER MOTOR CAR , for being our greatest and classiest sponsor. KEELER'S support has never failed HUDMO. We can always depend on them when we need anything Mercedes-Benz related, including discounts on purchases of cars, repairs and replacement parts.

The board of the HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION has and continues to do an exemplary job on all of our projects and deserve kudos of the highest order. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK! JIM WRIGHT PRESIDENT

## Board of Directors

**Chuck Trimarchi Vice President**

**George van der Wouden Treasurer**

**Sandra Griffin Membership Chair**

**Tim van der Wouden**

**Chuck Frigon**

**Vickie Parker**

**Herb Sodher**

**Kirk Daniels Photographer Videographer**

**\*Bob McShane board member at large**

**\*Ron Tanner Past President, Super Rally Planner!**

HUDMO MEETINGS ARE THE 4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30 AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, 189 WOLF ROAD ALBANY, NY 12205 MEMBERSHIP IS \$55.00 PER YEAR.



**Keeler Motor Car of Latham, New York, has a new general manager.**

*Joe Messner, who has more than thirty-five years of experience in the automotive business is now at the helm of all of Keeler's car sales and service operation.*

He was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio where he attended Xavier University and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and an MBA. Joe began his career in 1980 working for Ford Motors Company. In 1985 he moved to Mercedes Benz USA and worked there for 18 years, moving every two or three years to another job in another part of the country.

“My last two positions with MBUSA were General Manager of Retail Development at headquarters in Montvale, NJ and then Regional General Manager of the Midwest out of Chicago, IL. In 2003 I made the leap to Retail and became President of a small Automotive Group in Kansas City with 4 locations and 11 franchises. I ran the flagship store with Mercedes Benz, Jaguar, Land Rover, Porsche and Saab.”, Joe said. After several years, he was recruited to become a 20 Group moderator for NCM Associates and ran many of their Luxury Groups with Dealers and Managers from many brands across the country.

**“NCM 20 GROUPS Drive profitability by learning from the best. That’s what a 20 Group is all about.” The NCM 20 group peer collaboration process concept is smart and simple bringing together similar, non-competing dealers from a broad cross-section of the country to exchange best practices, experiences, ideas and strategies.**

**<http://www.ncm20.com/node/147#.vx5cud0u.dpuf>**

“When the recession began, I jumped back into the thick of things and joined Group 1 Automotive. I was with them for 5 years running operations in Oklahoma and then a BMW dealership in Long Island. In February of this year I came to work for Sandy Keeler as the V.P. of Operations for the Campus and General Manager of the Mercedes Benz Dealership.”, Messner said.

“I love working for the Keeler group and really enjoy living in the Capital Region. My family and I have relocated from Long Island to Saratoga Springs. My wife and children really enjoy the change and the warmth and friendliness we have found here in a few short months”, Joe said.

**We wish Joe continued success and look forward to working with him. Keeler Motor Car is the Hudson-Mohawk Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America our clubs most generous sponsor.**

**Jim Wright, President Hudson-Mohawk Section**



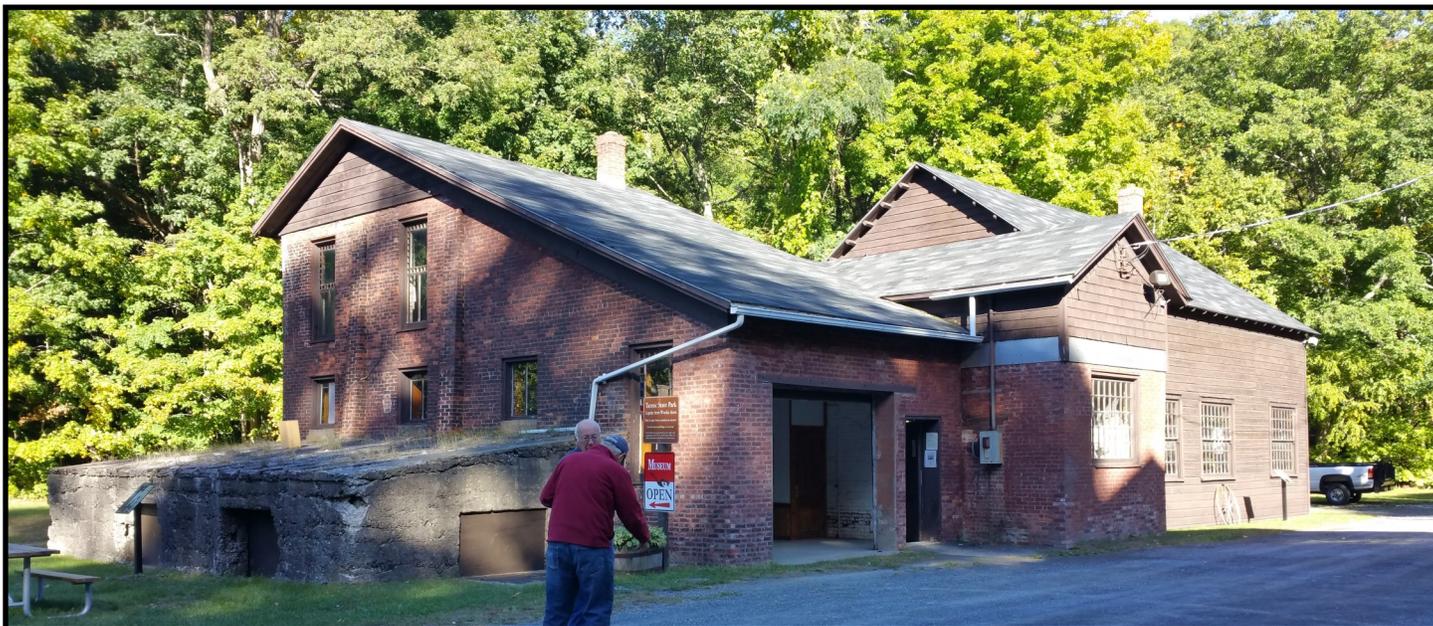
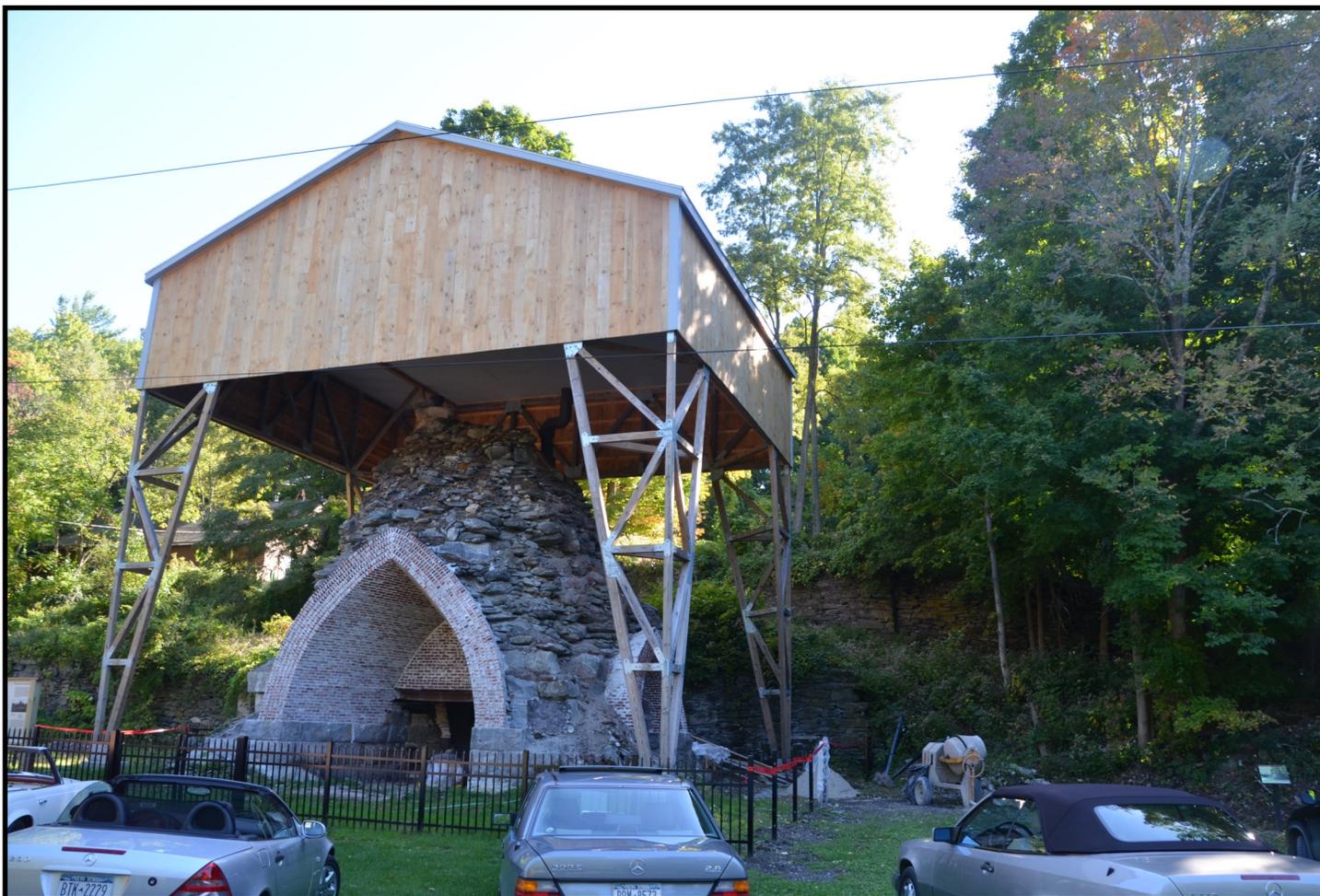
The **Hudson Mohawk Section** of the **Mercedes Benz Club of America** held a Fall Foliage Rally, Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Rally took participants through both northern and southern portions of Columbia County ending at the Copake Ironworks and then on to one of the finest restaurants in Columbia County, Swiss Hutte, at the Catamount Ski Area. The sunny, mild day was perfect for viewing the picturesque vistas and colorful foliage. Each car received a commemorative medal for participating, and prizes were given to successful trivia teams who completed the rally.



At the end of a fun day of touring a cold beer and a gourmet dinner hits the spot. Everyone had a great time. Next year's will be great too.



Our rally and tour took us to the Copake Iron Works which is part of the **Copake Iron Works Historic District**. It is a national historic district located at Copake Falls in Columbia County, New York. The district includes 11 contributing buildings, three contributing sites, eight contributing structures, and three contributing objects. They are associated with the remaining vestiges of the Copake Iron Works, an iron extraction and production operation established in the mid-19th century. It includes the remains of a charcoal blast furnace (ca. 1872), frame office and attached brick powder storage building, brick engine house and pattern shop, four frame workers houses, and a substantial Greek Revival dwelling. Also included in the district are a series of retaining walls, remnants of a cast iron penstock, and a bridge abutment. Also located in the district is the previously listed Church of St John in the Wilderness..<sup>[2]</sup>(from Wikipedia)



# Enter to Win the Grand Prize 2016 GLC

*With European Delivery!*



**Second and third prize winners  
will be awarded \$1,000 each.**

#### Details & Dates

- Grand prize: 2016 Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 4MATIC
- Total Prize Value- \$66,750
- Tickets are \$50 (US) each
- Last day to purchase tickets is Tuesday, December 1, 2015
- Grand prize drawing is Tuesday, December 8, 2015
- For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [raffle.mbca.org](http://raffle.mbca.org), call the NBO at **800-637-2360** or check your mailbox for an official mail-in order form.

Open to MBCA Members ONLY. Must be 18 years of age or older. No limit on the number of tickets a Member may purchase. The Grand Prize winner will choose an authorized US Mercedes-Benz dealership where a check in the amount of \$42,750 (US) will be delivered. The winner will shop for his/her package at the dealership of their choice. In addition, the Grand Prize winner will be sent a check in the amount of \$4,000 for airfare. \$20,000 will be awarded as partial Federal withholdings. If fewer than 3,200 tickets are sold, the Grand Prize will be one-half (50%) of the gross raffle ticket sales-minus \$2,000 for the Second and Third Prizes and less Federal withholding of 25%, or at least \$10,000 (less withholding), whichever is greater. Vehicle featured in this ad is representative ONLY. Odds of winning depend on total number of tickets sold. MUST be a current Member of MBCA at the time of purchase and day of prize drawing. Members may attend drawing (not required to enter or win). 100% of net raffle proceeds shall be devoted exclusively to the lawful purposes of MBCA International Stars Section. Void where prohibited by law.

#### European Delivery Includes:

- Up to 5 Night Stay for 2
- 2 tickets to the Mercedes-Benz Museum
- 15 days European Road Insurance
- For more details visit [raffle.mbca.org](http://raffle.mbca.org)



More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.<sup>SM</sup>

# STARFEST® 2016

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

August 3-6, 2016



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

## MBCA's Premier 2016 Event

StarFest® 2016 will take place in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" with lush green valleys and picturesque hilltop farms, it's also known as the Antique Capital of Connecticut. From the seashore near the host hotel, to the lush greenery near the host track, the two linked by a short trip on I-395. Spectacular scenery and iconic New England towns await your discovery.

Mohegan Sun, the host hotel, is known for World Class shows, Spas, Restaurants, Shopping, and of course the Casino. Located 2 hours from New York City, 1.5 hours from Boston, and 30 minutes from Hartford and Providence, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Mystic Seaport and the seashore are close by.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, the nation's oldest Closed Road Course, is the site of all Track Events. Newly renovated in 2014, it incorporates sections of the original track and new turn complexes over its smooth 1.7 mile layout. Fun for the novice, yet challenging for the expert. With onsite restaurants and championship golf course, it's the premier motorsports destination in New England.

The Concours d' Elegance Presented by Intercity Lines, will be held at The Golden Lamb Buttery, a picturesque 1,000 acre New England Hilltop Farm. It's the perfect backdrop for the Stars to Shine.

Other Events Include ...

Nautical Cruises from Mystic Seaport, The Ladies of Mercedes-Benz event, and of course the Rallye.



Get updates online at:  
[starfest2016.mbca.org](http://starfest2016.mbca.org)



# Keeler Motor Car Company

Mercedes-Benz Rte. 7 Latham, New York  
(518) 785-4197 [www.keeler.com](http://www.keeler.com)



HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION  
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

James Wright, President  
P.O. 38294 Albany, NY 12203

Need Roadside Assistance? Call: 1-800-FOR MERCEDES  
Please renew your membership. HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION  
FALL RALLY EDITION THIRD QUARTER