



HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION Mercedes-Benz Club of America “SEASON’S GREETINGS”

LATE FALL/ EARLY WINTER EDITION 2016



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope you are enjoying what promises to be a fun fall and winter. You can start by joining us at our annual holiday party December 3rd at the Albany Marriott Hotel on Wolf Road in Albany at 6pm.

One of our missions for the future is to recruit new members, especially young ones. HUD-MO's membership is aging and becoming less active. The board and I welcome ideas and suggestions to make the club attractive to first

time and unaffiliated BENZ owners and leasers. YOU TOO!!

We have created a "MARKET PLACE" for the club. Club members will be able to sell, trade and look for items that are available throughout the club region. The "MARKET PLACE" is a closed-circuit group only for those who register. If you have something to sell, trade or swap, join the group. Maybe You'll find something that you've always wanted, or a good home for a toy that you don't play with anymore! Send me an email and join the group. HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com.

"Majestic Women's Voices" at Mercedes-Benz STARFEST 2016, Mohegan Sun; Majestic, Connecticut: A" Once In A Life Time Bus Excursion" for the Women of the Mercedes-Benz Club by Brenda Motley

The National Mercedes Benz Organization held a well organized and professionally staged Ladies of Mercedes Only Bus Tour with about twenty (20) women traveling to have a great lunch featuring varied fresh salads, a variety of entree choices, including beef, chicken, and fish. There were dessert choices to die for like home- made apple crisp and ice cream, pie choices and different types of decorative cookies. We enjoyed listening to an historical presentation named, "Our Voices!" by the local historical society representative of the beautiful Mohegan Resort area in Majestic, Connecticut. The historian was dressed in period clothes of the early 1800's and presented a slide program depicting how the elite class of women and women slaves came together to eliminate slavery within this small Mohegan, Connecticut community. As the presentation concluded, the women boarded the tour bus again to be taken to a Winery. There they observed the many types of grape vines used to make the wine, and learned of the process used in getting the grapes off the vines, into the bottles, and then distributed throughout Massachusetts where it is exclusively sold. Most all participated in the "wine tasting session," and bought bottles of the wine that was most appealing to their individual taste buds to take home. As the day concluded, the women returned to participate in the evening's, Mercedes -Benz STARFEST festivities. All the women in their own "Voices" said, "What A Great Day!"



A LITTLE HUDMO HISTORY

BY PAST PRESIDENT SALLY SUFFOLK

MBCA NORTHEAST REGION includes two central upstate New York Sections. HUDSON MOHAWK, recently referred to as HUDMO, had a beginning in 1958. Mr. Atkins started attainment of the Charter in September, 1961, unveiled the Charter at the January 1962 Business Meeting. HUDMO Section encompassed the eastern half of New York State. The city of Albany became the center of club business and activities with memberships as far south as Westchester County, Western Massachusetts, north to the Canadian border, and south west including Syracuse and Elmira and Ithaca. Active since 1972, the Finger Lakes Section in the western half of New York State included buffalo and Rochester areas, south to Dunkirk and Fredonia, to the Pennsylvania State Line, and north to the Canadian Border with some members coming from Ontario, Canada.

In 1974, Mr. Evertt E. Splatt became a member of the Hudson Mohawk Section and the following year accepted the office of President, a position held until 1986. Business meetings failed filling a full slate of officers, scheduling activities slowed, attendance became low, new membership dropped and the Charter was at risk. Change came in late 1986 when President *pro-temp* Splatt offered a warm welcome and encouraged replacement to his office. Finger Lakes Section Secretary/ Editor moved east to the Richfield Springs./ Cooperstown area and changed membership to the Hudson Mohawk Section under her remarried name, Sally Suffolk.

A core group planned an organizational business meeting to reactivate the Hudson Mohawk Section on March 29, 1987 in Fly Creek/ Cooperstown. Members from near and far attended and a new slate of officers was elected: President/Editor-Sally Suffolk, Vice-President Ann Fischer, Treasurer-Johnathan M. Newman, Secretary-James T. Santer. The National Business Office held a timely Name Your Newsletter Contest that encouraged the title "Benz Bericht" created by the Editor and Honorable Mentions were received. New membership grew and monthly meetings were held at the Bavarian Chalet west of Albany although club events covered widespread locations throughout the Section.

A NORTHEAST REGIONAL EVENT was held March 19-21, 1989, in Cooperstown with Hudson Mohawk as the Host Section and the Co-Host Connecticut-Westchester Section. The Car Show Event and Banquet were at the Otsego Hotel and Glimmerglass State Park featured the MBCA Autocross, while the Rally roamed rural roads in Otsego, Schoharie and Herkimer Counties with scheduled side trips to Howe's Caverns and Remington Arms Museum. (An article was published in the STAR magazine Jul/Aug, 1989, p. 46 describing the event.)



MERCEDES BENZ WINS AGAIN

BY BRUCE PARKER

Mercedes Benz made their Formula One racing debut midway through the 1954 season in the French Grand Prix. Juan Manuel Fangio left the Maseratti team to climb into the driver's seat of the fledgling Mercedes team and won in their first ever Grand Prix start. Mercedes and Fangio won the F1 championship in 1954 and again in 1955. Despite the two consecutive championships, Mercedes withdrew from Grand Prix racing and did not return until the 2012 season.

Formula One is the most competitive, cutting edge, engineering intense racing in the world. To be among the leading teams would require time and intense research and development. Mercedes set about the task in earnest, and by 2014 had landed the championship. Not only did they win, but they were dominant; winning 16 of 19 races. The same in 2015, 16 wins in 19 races and again for this year, 2016, winning 19 of 21 races.

So what exactly does this mean for Mercedes Benz as a company and you as a Mercedes Benz owner besides the prestige? The simple answer for Mercedes as a company is increased sales. The old saying, "Win on Sunday, sell on Monday" was never truer. For 2014 Mercedes sales were up 5.7% for a record sales volume of 330,391 in the USA. In 2015 sales were up worldwide by 13.4% and up by 32.69% in China, their largest individual auto market. For 2016 through July of this year Mercedes Benz reclaimed the global Luxury Vehicle Car Sales Crown from arch rival BMW with increased sales up 12% vs. BMW up only 5.6%. So does winning a world wide Formula 1 racing crown have any effect on sales? The numbers speak for themselves.

So, if Mercedes as a company gains sales, what do you as an owner get from the racing championship and dominance over the last three years? Simple again, improved automobiles. That same technology that went into those winning race cars filters down to your street car. It stands to reason if Mercedes has developed the technology and engineering expertise to run a race engine at 16,000 rpm's that a road engine at 7,000 to 8,000 rpm's should be almost indestructible. More horsepower from smaller engines, better throttle response, better handling, better aerodynamics, better breaking, better everything and better reliability all wind up in road cars.

If you want performance, AMG, the arm of Mercedes that develops high performance race cars also builds high performance road cars. I'll take a Mercedes AMG GTS two seater sports car, thank you. Nothing, and I mean nothing on the road compares. Santa can leave me that 503 horsepower racer developed road car full of exotic metal, carbon fiber and dual clutch automatic 7 speed transmission good for 197 miles per hour any time he pleases.



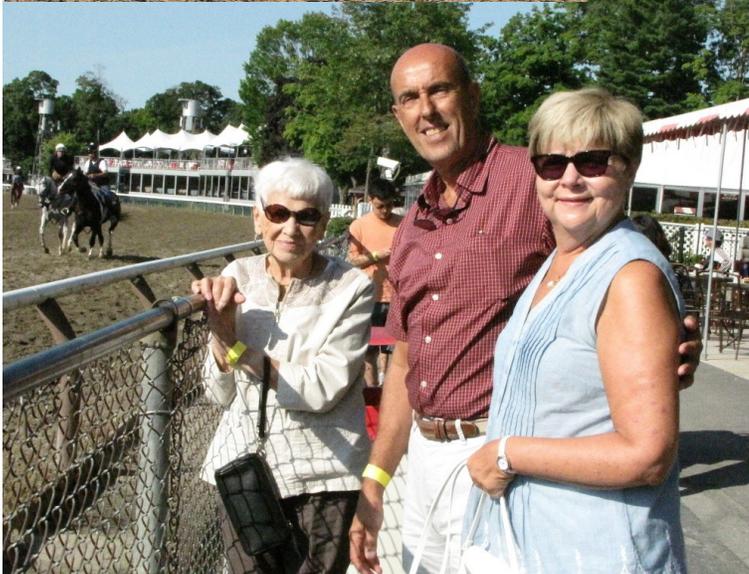
2016 AMG
GTS



Breakfast at Saratoga Race Course

August 24, 2016

HUDMO lucked out again with a beautiful, sunny, mild day for a trackside breakfast. The food was yummy; the company was pleasant; the horses looked ready to race as they exercised trackside. Saundra Griffin did a wonderful job, as usual, organizing a fun filled morning. Those who stayed for the afternoon races bet their luck would continue for the rest of the day.



STARFEST 2016

August 3-6

Mystic, Connecticut



President Jim Wright is congratulated by National President Terry Kiwala with HUDMO STARFEST Winners Kris Roglieri and Carlos Heiligmann.

2016 FALL TOUR AND RALLY

September 30-October 2

Lake Placid N.Y.

With the cars lined up and members assembled, the Hudson Mohawk Section started the Fall Tour at the Saratoga Auto Museum and began the scenic drive by following roads less travelled to Lake Placid and the Adirondack Park. The foliage was at peak, and everyone enjoyed nature's colorful display. After settling in at Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza and exploring a bit of Lake Placid, there was a "Meet and Greet" in the Great Room at the Hotel.



Regional Director Ernie Fancy and his wife Bonnie drove in from Massachusetts



Saturday morning brought Rally Master Ron Tanner distributing the route directions with apples for the driver and navigator. The route took us through the village of Saranac Lake, west through the Saint Regis Canoe area to Tupper Lake and The Wild Center where we paused for lunch and a short hike and exploration. From The Wild Center we drove north to Bloomingdale and then east to the North Pole. We drove past the White-face Memorial Highway to the village of Wilmington. Heading back south some of us stopped to trek the High Falls Gorge or made side trips to the top of the ski jump in the Olympic Center or to John Brown's Homestead and Grave.



Jodi and Tom Larison won the Rally and Gail and Dan Borkosky came in second. Both couples were awarded trophies at the Awards Dinner that evening while participants had all kinds of stories to tell about their drive and their experiences during the day, and all agreed they had a wonderful time.

HUDMO COMING EVENTS

Your Board has planned many varied activities for your enjoyment. Pencil in some of your favorite activities so you can **save the dates** to join us.

Friday, April 14, 2017– Carol King Musical “Beautiful” at Proctor’s 7:30p.m. Tickets are \$75

Saturday, May 20, 2017– New Member Meeting/ Luncheon at the Marriott. Details to follow.

The list below includes plans for other activities for the 2017 year. Dates and specifics will be detailed in emails and future newsletters.

- Cabin Fever Lunch—Albany and Down State
- Tech show at Keeler Motors
- Breakfast at the Track
- Fall Rally
- HUDMO Car Show

These are possible suggestions:

- Fireman’s Museum, Hudson, NY—Family Event
- Family cookout/ Picnic
- Ugly Sweater Party
- Breakfast with Santa

Your Board is looking for your suggestions or activities that you would like to enjoy. Please contact any of your Board Members or Officers to suggest new events for your Mercedes Club.



Each year HUDMO chooses a charity to support. This year we will be working with two needy organizations. **Dress for Success** helps women join the workforce by supplying professional clothing for them to interview for jobs and present themselves at work. They also offer information on interviewing and preparing for jobs. Members are asked to donate a business style pocketbook and possibly including a donation check inside. The HudMo Club will match up to \$250 to this great cause. Check to be made out to ACAP (Albany Community Action Partnership).

HudMo Club will also be partnering with Hannaford to contribute to its food/meal box program, 25 boxes at \$10 per box (\$250) to Schenectady County Inner City Ministry. (SICM)



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Please renew your membership. HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION
FALL RALLY EDITION THIRD QUARTER