



HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

2018 The YEAR in REVIEW

LOOKING IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR AT 2018 AND DRIVING FORWARD IN 2019.

.The new year has just begun and your HUDMO Board is busily planning activities for you. We look to our members for suggestions and new roads to travel. If you would like to include your ideas, please come to our meetings the 4th Thursday of every month at the Marriott on Wolf Road, Colonie, or send your ideas to our President, Jim Wright. The Board would love your input. In the meantime, here is a look back at the highlights of 2018.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. It's a time when most of us visit with family and reconnect with friends that we have not seen in a while. We reflect, reminisce, and make plans for the future. It is always very satisfying, not always acted on, but the intentions are sincere. As it turns out, resolutions are usually just statements of good or great intentions.

With that in mind I ask you what would you like to see the club do now and in the future? I want to be able to consider all your ideas and thoughts and present them to the board. The club's activities should reflect and support as many points of view as are in step with the club's values. We will be publishing our 2019 schedule of events shortly. We can add events and modify or reschedule existing ones. Our organization will be much more fun to be a part of if you participate.

SEND ME YOUR THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND COMMENTS. I RESOLVE TO ENSURE THAT YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!

MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDARS

Sunday, March 3rd Cabin Fever Party, O'Tooles Restaurant, Kohl's Plaza, Colonie. 1-3:00. More details to follow.

**Sunday, March 17th Proctor's Theater Schenectady 7:00pm
The Temptations and the Four Tops, \$55pp**

Orchestra Seating. Reservation Deadline: February 15, 2019. Checks to Hudson Mohawk Mercedes Benz Club and send to Sandra Griffin, 1045 Palmer Ave., Schenectady NY 12309 Contact (518) 210-1556 or email griffin_16810@msn.com

Sunday, July 21 Saratoga Polo Details to follow

Saturday, August 24, Newburg Air Show with the Blue Angels \$20.75 pp

Saturday, December 7th, 2019 Holiday Party Details later

SALLY SUFFOLK MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Sally lives in Exeter NY on Lake Canadarago, a little piece of heaven very few have heard of before. Several HUDMO members visited Sally in July, 2016. We learned of our club's history, had a picnic, a fun boat ride and a tour of Sally's beautiful home and lake. Sally also attended *Starfest 2016* in Connecticut with several of our members.

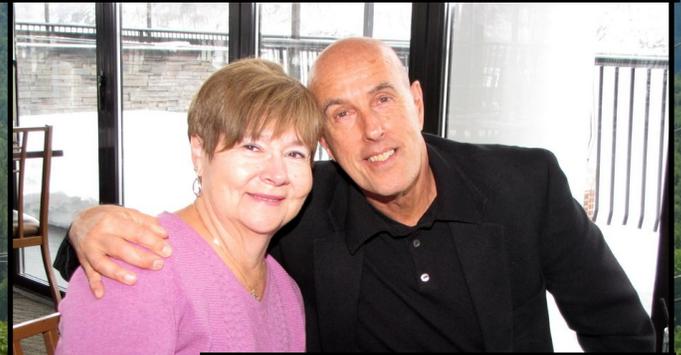
Her MBCA membership began in 1982 with the Finger Lakes Section which included Western NYS and Ontario, Canada. She organized a number of events, was elected secretary and newsletter editor. The region was too large and ultimately, HUDMO was formed for Eastern NYS. Sally, by then, had remarried and moved to the Richfield Springs/ Cooperstown area. Mr. Everett E. Splatt was president of HUDMO from 1974 until 1986, and membership had dwindled. A core group met in March 1987 to reactivate the HUDMO Section and Sally became President and newsletter editor. Vice President was Ann Fisher, presently a very active member in our Section. Meetings were held at the Bavarian Chalet in Albany and club events covered widespread locations throughout Eastern NYS.

We are sorry to hear that Sally has been very ill recently and we hope she regains her health, but she is one of the pioneers of our Section who has given us past records of the club, hosted us and been an outstanding contribution to HUDMO. Congratulations, Sally, as Member of the Year.



CHUCK TRIMARCHI RETIRES FROM HUDMO BOARD AND HIS ROLE AS VICE-PRESIDENT

Chuck is retiring from his many official duties, but he is still an active member in the club. He and his wife Bobby have lots of travel and family events planned with sons and grandchildren which keeps them busy. Chuck always gives 100%, and he was afraid with all his other activities that he would not be able to do the excellent job that he has always done. Chuck has arranged the last two family picnics, helped plan our car rallies, made arrangements for new member luncheons and Holiday parties, and has been an all around very active member. He's not leaving us as we'll see both he and Bobby at our events. It's not goodbye; it's see you soon....Thanks for your hard work.



The 2018 CATSKILL CONQUEST PILOT RALLY

It all started back in 1903 when the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers sponsored an 800 mile endurance run from Weehawken, NJ, to Pittsburgh, PA. Thirty-four competing automobiles departed on October 7, 1903, and traveled up the Hudson Valley and then through the Catskill Mountains. There were no maps, road signs nor route numbers. Reaching Delhi on the second day in a driving rain, they continued on through Franklin and then Binghamton and beyond.

In September, 2017, Robert Selkowitz, Director of the Historic Automobile Endurance Runs, LLC, organized the first Catskill Conquest Pilot Rally. This rally course was designed to cover 75 miles of the original historic route traveled in 1903. The course took participants over the Catskill Mountains to the Susquehanna River.

On September 22, 2018, the 2nd Annual Catskill Conquest Pilot Rally was held, also organized by Robert Selkowitz. On this chilly Saturday morning thirty cars met at the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Visitors Center in Mount Temper, NY, to once again re-trace the 75 mile route shortened to 65 for 2018 due to a shift in starting location. Of these, six cars were representing the Hudson Mohawk MBCA.

Gathering just before the 10:30 a.m. start, they welcomed everyone with hot coffee, water, bagels and various pastries. Each car was given a packet containing information about the course including directions and identifying 5 additional interesting hosted checkpoints.

Prior to the start of the rally we were given a talk by Richard Riker about his grandparents, A. L. and Edith Riker, who drove the Locomobile in the 1903 Auto Endurance Run. The 1898 Ricker Electric and a 1909 Locomobile Model L Demi-Tonneau were scheduled to be on hand at the start but had to cancel. They are, however, expected to be on hand for the 2019 event.

The first checkpoint was at the start, the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Visitor Center. This Center has 3D map exhibits of the Catskill Watershed.

The second, at mile fourteen, was the Hamlet of Pine Hill and The Pine Hill Community Center. This was the first overnight for the drivers of the 1903 Endurance Run.

The third was the Cauliflower Festival in the Village of Margaretville. Here we were able to wander through a community fair with crafts, food, and local produce celebrating the once significant cash crop of cauliflower.

At the fourth we discovered the Delhi Harvest Festival of crafts in the Court House Square. This included a visit to the museum of the Delaware County Historical Association. Here we saw exhibits of the New York Engineer's working road building maps from 1907.

At the fifth we found ourselves at the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum which housed a private Pullman car of the gilded age of railroading. Other local historical artifacts and materials were also on exhibit.

Last stop was the Unadilla House dating back to 1804 when the Catskill-Susquehanna Turnpike opened. It is the headquarters of the Unadilla Car Club which welcomed us with a show of their cars.

Some of us were also able to make a stop at the magnificent turn of the century Sul Monte Mansion. This

. (continued from page 5) **The 2018 Catskill Conquest Pilot Rally**

turn of the century, three story 1926 Tudor mansion designed in 1922 by Harrie T, Lindberg was constructed for the renowned 1920-39's era opera soprano Amelita Galli-Curci.

We were lucky that the weather held up during our drive which allowed us to stop and view some beautiful vistas of the Catskill Mountains. I know some of us are now anxiously looking forward to participating in next year's Catskill Conquest Pilot Rally currently scheduled for September 21, 2019. Anyone interested in Information regarding this rally event can go to www.1903autorun.com or contact Robert Selkowitz, Director of the Historic Automobile Endurance Runs, LLC at 1903autorun@gmail.com or phone (845) 657-6982.

— written by *Chuck Frigon, Treasurer*



2018 HOLIDAY PARTY

And what a party it was! Held at the Italian American Club on Washington Avenue Extension, HUDMO members enjoyed an excellent, delicious dinner, a festively decorated room and great company. There was an awesome slide show of all our activities over the year presented by Kirk Daniels, Board Member and our Newsletter photographer. Sandra Griffin, party organizer and hostess, held drawings for Mercedes merchandise and door prizes. President Jim Wright awarded Sally Suffolk as Member of the Year and Chuck Trimarchi as Board Member of the Year. Jim also introduced the Board Members and gave each of them a permanent ID pin and a book entitled *The Ultimate History of Mercedes Benz*. Thank you Jim ; the Board Members all appreciated our gifts.





CABIN FEVER PARTY

The middle of March is a great time to get out, shake the dust or ice and snow off, and meet other Benz enthusiasts for a nice lunch at Hana's Japanese Steakhouse. Organized and hosted by Sandra Griffin, we had drawings, good food, and great conversations.



KEELER TECH SHOW

Always well attended, Keeler's Rick Walker prepared an excellent program for HUDMO. We brought questions and he and his team supplied the answers. Much of the program talked about technological advancements and what that means for the Mercedes driver, restoration of antique Benzes, and the equipment used by technicians.



SARATOGA POLO

Something new this year, and for many of us the first time, to check out the other horse attraction in the City of Horses. It was epic; 90* plus and humid, but we had a fun experience having a tailgate party.



BREAKFAST AT SARATOGA

A sunny day, horses exercising on the track, breakfast, and good HUDMO company. Do you need anything else for a start to a perfect day? Thank you ,Saundra ,for arranging another enjoyable event.



THE SECOND ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC AND CAR SHOW

On September 9th HUDMO held the family picnic and car show at the Glen Doone picnic area and pavilion in John Boyd Thacher Park in Voorheesville, NY. It wasn't raining. That was good. It was overcast and 47 degrees. That was not so good especially since the whole week prior it was 95 degrees! Chuck Trimarchi, the Chairman of the event, had worked very hard to organize games of badminton, corn hole, volleyball, and other activities. The activity that all participated in was gathering sticks and branches for the fire pit. However, everyone left the warm fire to observe the car show judging.



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