



HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

2021 WINTER EDITION



2020

That Was The Year That Was

2020 Started like every other year; the Ball dropped in Time's Square with several hundred thousand revelers freezing in the frigid winter night. But that night everything was starting to change. Through the next two months we kept hearing about this strange virus coming from the wet market in Wuhan. Then in March the talk changed to pandemic and astronomical death tolls. Then the unthinkable happened. In an unprecedented move the sales department was shut down.

What was going to happen?!? What were we going to do with all of the cars sitting on our lot? Talk turned to furlough and layoffs. We, then for the next few months, had a limited ability to sell vehicles; the changes were: no one allowed in the showroom, then by appointment only, then limited people. We learned to adapt and adopt. Through it all the public bought cars. We did not set records in the number of sales, but given the American Spirit and our love affair with our cars, we had a good year.

We are very excited to come into 2021, not just because it called in the end of 2020, but because we are getting the new S Class. This model will amaze everyone who has the opportunity to drive one! We will also be receiving the first of many Electric vehicles!

As things continue to change, we will evolve with them. One thing remains constant however; the long term relationship we've shared over the years. I would like to thank all of the members of the Mercedes-Benz Club for your support, your business and most of all your Friendship.

Thank you,

Peter Connolly

Keeler Motor Car Co.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



I hope that all of you are fine and managed to avoid or recuperate from the COVID-19 zombies. Hopefully it will end soon and the plague will disappear. You all have my best wishes and the Board's as well.

While we have been confined to our houses with very limited access to others, except those we live with, and people who provided essential services, Spring "IS" on the way. It will provide an opportunity to socialize in a

a safe environment, "IN OUR CARS." Our vehicles can provide a protective bubble that will allow us to visit and share some smiles. Creativity is the key!

We all miss what we used to call normal. We can modify what comes next to have events that will bring us together. There will be Rallies, Fun Runs and other shared events. The Board has been having virtual meetings to plan for 2021. Your ideas and thoughts about HUDMO events would be greatly appreciated. I encourage your feedback.

HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com .

Our board needs a new member who will volunteer to be treasurer. That person must be able to operate an Excel spread sheet.

Unpack your smiles and humor for our meeting in the spring.

— Jim

STAR-TING OFF IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Member Chuck Frigon reads a story to his grandson, Elias Wilder Frigon



HUDMO FUN RUN

OCTOBER 17,2020

The sunny, clear skies made the October 17th Fun Run a beautiful day for its success! Everyone met at the Ambrosia Diner in Catskill for a pre-drive breakfast. Members with guests came for a scenic drive and a chance to reunite as a Club at a COVID compliant event. There were fifteen cars and at least 38 persons who participated including new faces of members with better halves and children. Even members of the neighboring Minuteman Section joined the group! Each car was given a goody bag, with water, snack bars and hand sanitizer (a Covid must!) to enjoy along the planned 2.5 hour ride. The Run's 79 mile route went through windy, less traveled roads in the Catskills. The Mountains were dressed in their peak fall colors and the weather cooperated with bright blue skies. It was a little too brisk for top downs on the convertibles, but a great day for the sights.

The Run had a competitive element added. Drivers with navigators were given written route instructions with questions of what could be observed on the road. Highlights along the route were The Falls, an old church in the middle of a road, and homesteads of town founders. Participants were scored on the number of correct answers to questions and how close they came to the course's GPS measured miles.

The finish line was at the Bull's Head Inn built in 1802, known to be haunted, where lunch was enjoyed and conversation flowed. Best scores were tallied during lunch and awards presented. **Barbara and Allen Vollmer** took 1st place, **Greg Serio** with daughter **Katherine** at the wheel took 2nd and **Paul and Lisa Donfried** from the **Minuteman Section** took 3rd in their 1957 220S coupe.

Everyone is looking forward to next year and the adventures to be had. —*Saundra Griffin*





Lime Rock Raceway: The Gathering of the Marques

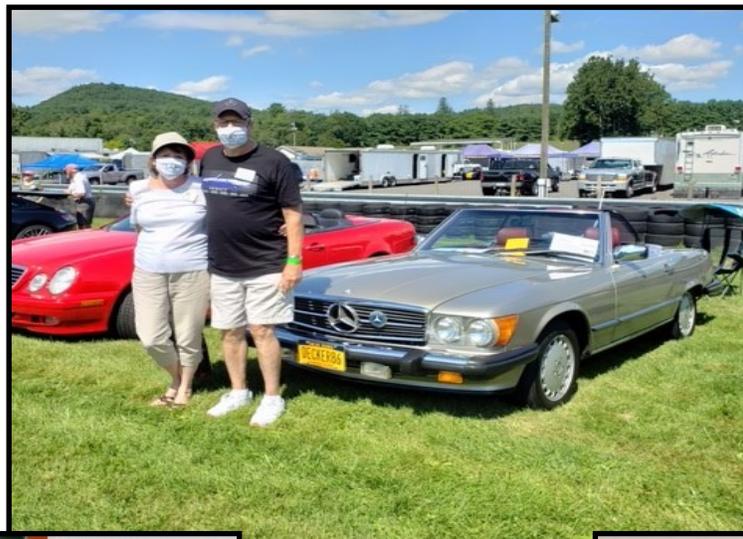
September 6, 2020

Although COVID may have limited activities in 2020, HUDMO members found ways to enjoy their cars and attend safe, outdoor gatherings. Lime Rock Park and Raceway sponsors an annual Labor Day Historic Weekend featuring a vintage race, car shows, and car related events that are outdoors, spectator-friendly, and COVID safe.

Lew and Velice Decker attended the Sunday event and even won an award at the Gathering of the Marques. Lew shared his experience with us below:

My Wife and I attended the "Gathering of the Marques" at Lime Rock Raceway on September 6th 2020. There were hundreds of vehicles on display with many different makes and classes. Since we were the only members of our Benz section in attendance, we were put in line with the Westchester Mercedes Benz section of about 30 vehicles. It was a bright, beautiful day and we got to view all makes, models, and the race cars that had raced here today and in the past. After lunch we returned to our line up and took out our lounge chairs. I was taken by surprise when the track judges that came by and awarded us the "best of class" in the Mercedes line up with my 1986 SL 560. The award was a ribbon with medallion the shape of the track and lettering of best in class on the back. We left shortly after, and riding with the top down, could not help but think what a great day-- winning an award and driving through beautiful countryside with good weather. The end of a perfect day!

- LewDecker, HUDMO Board Member





WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR MERCEDES BENZ IN 2021 AND 2022?

The article below is a summary of information your editor gleaned from several articles featured in several issues of *Car and Driver* magazine. The picture at the left, a 2021 S class Sedan, is courtesy of *Car and Driver*, and the authors and dates of the information will be included for the sake of plagiaristic veracity. The next issue of *Star Magazine* will surely have more information about the upcoming new Electric cars and models. —Vickie Parker, Editor

In the December 17th 2020, issue of *Car and Driver*, author Joey Capparella outlined the prices of the 2021 S-class luxury sedan which starts at \$110,850 for the base S500 4-matic model, an increase of \$15,650 over last year's model, and the new V8 Power S580 4-matic starts at \$117,350. By comparison in 1987 a loaded W126 420SEL cost \$52,250. The comparison prices seem high, but counting the inflation over the years from 1987 to 2021 prices are comparable. However, there are numerous mechanical advances included. Both 2021 models come with a 48 volt hybrid system, and all base models come standard with all wheel drive. The S500 has an inline 6 engine with 429 horsepower compared to previous year's 362 HP while the S580 has 496 HP, 33 HP more than last year. There are more options for both that will drive the price up substantially dependent upon preference. These sedans will arrive in the US the first half of 2021.

The January 21st 2021, issue of *Car and Driver* featured the new electric power cars slated to come out in 2021 and 2022. In an article written by Roberto Baldwin the Mercedes Electric cars were reviewed. The first to arrive in the US will be added to the GLA class and is called the EQA. Daimler unveiled this car in Germany on January 21st. In Europe the EQA will offer 187 horsepower and 277pound feet of torque priced at \$57,750 (US equivalent). It may or may not come to the US with a more powerful motor with 280 horsepower. The US and European measurements are a bit different as are the EPA standards set by each country. The EQA is planned to be available this summer 2021. An electric Maybach and G-wagon are on the horizon as is an AMG variant with 600 horse power purported to come out in 2022.

An EQS is also planned for summer 2021 and will have a range of approximately 435 miles. The car is slightly smaller than the standard E class and is based on the MEA Platform, a flat skateboard platform that can be adjusted in length, smaller or larger.. The EQS will have a battery pack of approximately 100 K-WH with a driving range of 300 miles which should allow drivers to replenish 80% of the battery in less than 20 minutes. The interior is planned to be spacious, and according to Colin Beresford in his January 7th article in *Car and Driver*, the interior has a hyper-screen that is 56" long, a dashboard, if you will, of three actual screens; one gage cluster and two infotainment screens, one for the driver and one for the passenger individualized to their needs and interests with the most used apps appearing on the screen. This cluster will appear in the EQS coming out this spring and has been introduced in smaller scale in 2018 in the A class. When no passengers are in the seat, that screen goes dark and features a starry screen. There may be a question of whether the hyper-screen promotes a distraction from driving which might be controversial when introduced, but that, too, is to be examined in the future.



56" Hyperscreen

EQS sporting the STAR



FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP

Your Board of Directors has been meeting monthly via phone conferencing, and even with the pandemic we are planning activities for this spring that will be safe and fun. Stand by for notices, dates and information. In the meantime, our **Vice President, Sandra Griffin**, wanted to make sure that you receive our New Year's wishes via the post card that was sent to all members, so we are enclosing a copy of the postcard designed by Sandra that was sent in December. This is just our way of reaching out to everyone to tell you that we are still here and still looking forward to being together again soon seeing old friends and meeting new.



Thank you **Board Member George Moses** for submitting our October FUN RUN to be highlighted in the *Club News* Section of the *STAR Magazine*. It is good to be recognized by our National Mercedes Benz Club

Speaking of the *Star Magazine*, if anyone is interested I have copies of each issue from 2018 to 2020 all inclusive available for free to anyone who wants them. Newer members especially might want to use them for reference as they contain a lot of information on all aspects of Mercedes Benz cars. They are sent to you as part of your membership benefits. Contact Vickie Parker at newsletterlady5@gmail.com if interested.

Board Member Herb Sodher's wife of over 50 years, Cindy, is in The Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Saratoga. She has been there for over a year, and because of COVID rules he has been unable to visit her other than through a window. Their situation was featured on Channel 6 News on February 2nd and pointed out how difficult this past year has been for individuals in all aspects of life. Let's hope the nursing homes will be open to visitors soon. There is light at the end of this tunnel.

Members, don't forget that as **HUDMO members** you are entitled to advertise car related ads such as car parts, cars for sale, tires, etc . in our newsletter for free. Non members are welcome to advertise also for \$25 an ad. Send your item write-ups and pictures to newsletterlady5@gmail.com.

Since you read about the new Mercedes Benz electric car models being introduced this year, it might be a good, safe, field trip to travel to **Keeler Motors** to inspect the new additions to the line and see them up close. Learn what the future in driving holds for us.

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