



Mercedes-Benz Club of America Hudson-Mohawk Section



SUMMER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012

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Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club



Annual Car Show

July 8, 2012

Locust Grove
2683 South Road (Rt. 9)
Poughkeepsie, NY, 12601



Bring your Gatsby to the Morse Mansion!

In the summer, especially in July, when the weather is just right, you want to dress up, take a long leisurely ride in your great car and meet friends for a great picnic. You can have that opportunity on July 8th at Locust Grove on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, NY. A great destination makes the ride more rewarding. Come to the Hudson-Mohawk Section's Annual Car Show. It will help you celebrate summer and enhance the "Gatsby" in you. There will be fine cars, old friends, big hats, picnic displays, a return to the Great Gatsby Era,.... so put on your straw hat, dress up in your period clothes, bring your best belle or beau and lets have some fun! Don't forget your driving glasses. For more details contact Jim Wright at (518) 281-3406, hudsonmohawkmbca@gmail.com

If you are going to display your car make sure you arrive before 9:00 AM. All model years of Mercedes are welcome.

Registration to show your car is \$25.00 (per car). Send checks to "Hudson-Mohawk MBCA", 26 Crystal Lane, Delmar NY 12054

If you are not showing your car, there is a general admission of \$6.00 to the Locust Grove Antique Car Show, which includes the HUDMO Car Show. The HUDMO portion of the event will end with the presentation of awards at 2:00 PM.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the show, call Jim Wright at (518) 281-3406.

There is a little Gatsby in all of us Bring it with you! In addition to the automobile prizes there will be prizes for the best period dress, best picnic setup, most outrageous hat, and best parasol twirling.

There will be all kinds of unusual vintage cars and trucks sponsored by other clubs, and many fun things to see and do.

Who knows, maybe we can play some croquet!

President's Message



It does not seem possible that summer is well underway, where does the time go, it seems the older you get the faster time passes. With the warm weather here our schedule of events is picking up speed and your Board has been very busy putting together some new activities and repeating those that have been enjoyable in the past. In this issue you will find an outline of those events that have been finalized and some with only tentative plans at this time. We hope to see you at as many events as possible.

Over the past two months we have had two Tech Sessions, one at Keeler Motor Car and another at Mercedes-Benz of Wappinger Falls, both were great successes. It appears that those cars which were inspected are ready for our summer events and we know we will see all those drivers again this summer. Your Board expects our Treasury to remain in it's present strong condition, therefore we will be holding a FREE Family Picnic at Lake Taghanic State Park on July 28. Mark the date and plan on coming out for a day of fun with the family, more details to follow. Another new addition to our calendar is our participation in the New England Section's Farberally to begin this year in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. This will be two nights at the Publix.House hosted by the Minuteman Section. These two night events will be great fun and it has always been a great rally. We will send you more details as they become available.

As I have mentioned before, we have an opening on the Board and we would love to see a member step up to fill this spot. If you would like to serve or would like more information, please email or call me at anytime. (518-822-1664 exqqme06@yahoo.com) Our membership remains steady and our financial position has never been better. Please take the time to match your calendar with ours. The Board looks forward to seeing more and more members at our upcoming events.

Ron Tanner
President

On Saturday, May 19th Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers hosted a Tech Event for our club. HUDMO members received a 63 point inspection of their vehicles for \$27.00. It was a bargain and insured that our cars would be in "tip top shape" for the summer driving season. An informal discussion of new technology was the highlight of the day. Participants were encouraged to ask the technicians specific questions about their cars as they were being inspected.

We got a special treat when Service Manager John Cantamessa, and our host let us get a long look at the new SLS. But we couldn't touch it. So, we took a photo with it. Refreshments were served and we all had a great time.



(from left to right)
Carlene Thusgaard,
Gina Schuhl, Ennie
Dufur, Sandra
Griffin, Rick Walker



Special thanks goes to Jennifer Sweet, Marketing and Communications Manager, for allowing us to have our Tech Event at her dealership. She is a HUDMO member in good standing and is always helpful. Please keep building those bridges.

Every spring Keeler sponsors a "Tech event" for us and we thank them for their support.

New Members

Jack Berk
Germantown, NY

Amalia Boss
Hopewell Junct., NY

Patrick Doyle
Hudson, NY

John Giulino
Lanesboro, NY

David Hasso
Wynantskill, NY

Thomas Herling
Kerhonkson, NY

Lloyd Knecht
Endicott, NY

Christopher Lobrutto
Milan, NY

Anne Loretto
Roseboom, NY

Joseph McKinney
Middletown, NY

Marlow Olson
Schenectady, NY

Robert Peck
Loudonville, NY

Peter Perry
Rensselaer, NY

Paul Quirk
Albany, NY

Ziyun Zhuang
Malta, NY

Our Members are very interesting people.

We want to get to know you and eventually all club members should know each other. We have been randomly selecting members to profile for this feature, but if you have a tale to tell, a story to spin or something wonderful to share, contact Jim Wright, HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com. We have some of the most interesting, talented and successful individuals in our membership and we want to know about you.

Bjarne Mikkelsen has been a member of the Hudson-Mohawk Chapter of the Mercedes-Benz Club since 1997, when he bought his first Mercedes. Currently, he is



the proud owner of three Mercedes-Benz: a 1974 280C, a 1983 240D, and a 2006 E500 wagon. All are good drivers, and are used year-round. The wagon serves as primary transportation, but he may drive any of the cars on any given day depending on his mood.

His busy and successful career in the international travel industry keeps him away much of the time.

Substantial involvement in local community activities prevent him from as much active participation with the MB club as he hopes to some day enjoy. Considering himself a MB collector, he particularly enjoys the camaraderie with other enthusiasts, meeting folks, and the ensuing car talk. He also likes seeing and discussing other members' cars. He happily receives and reads the Star Magazine, and the HUDMO newsletter via e-mail. His picture, with all three of his cars, appears on page 113 of the recently published Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. Membership Album of 2012.

Bjarne is pleased with the range of activities the Hudson-Mohawk Chapter offers, and is happy to see that we are having many activities in the southern portions of the area. He does have a strong request for Mercedes-Benz of America. "Please do what is necessary to overcome the restrictive environmental regulations that have thus far prevented the import into the United States of the numerous diesel-powered, small and affordable models of Mercedes products that can be seen in Europe and Canada!"

Since the early 70s he has traveled the world and can now count very close to 100 countries visited (not just an airport stop over!). He represents private train companies. One example among many others is the "Trans Siberia Moscow-Beijing." Australia, India, and Africa are areas of his expertise. He welcomes inquiries in hopes he may assist fellow members in world adventures.

BJ is a very friendly guy and a great story teller. It was a pleasure to interview him.

If you are interested in using his services he can be reached at:

The Cruise Broker, Inc.

Cruise the Mekong in LAOS

www.thecruisebroker.com

Deluxe trains worldwide incl. the Trans Siberian Beijing - Moscow

www.greatdanejournays.com

PLUS: Australian trains & Safaris

Car Tip: "Regardless of how many MBs you might have, make sure you drive them all on a regular basis. An idle car will **dry out**."

Bjarne Mikkelsen

“Evelyn and William Dufur, a perfectly matched pair”

Usually when a profile is done, it's about one individual but in this article it is about two that function as one. While they may have separate interests and pursuits they are most often seen together sharing what they have in common. A love of life that includes family; two daughters, five grandchildren; a love of travel; and a love of the good life which includes two Mercedes'. A 2012 SLK and a 2010 GL450. They use the SLK around town and the GL on long trips especially when they go to visit as Enny says, “my five fabulous grandchildren.”

They have been members for more than four years. Both of them are retired.

When we speak of them we say “Bill and Enny” or “Enny and Bill”. They are like the two swans you see that have mated for life and that's not far from the truth. They have been sweethearts since high school and have been married for forty-six years.

Enny and Bill are both capital district natives. Enny was a teacher for 36 years in the Albany area. She has four teaching degrees and graduated from Cornell University. She just attended her 50th class reunion. Bill retired eight years ago from a career in the automobile industry which included sales, leasing and management.

Now that they are both retired they are very active even more than they were in the past and they were very very active. While they don't have a formal bucket list, they want to take all of the greatest train rides around the world. “Bill and Enny” have been to California twice on the train and traveled through Spain, Germany, China, France, and England on trains.

Boating has been a favorite activity for most of their lives. Bill is a Certified captain and has piloted their 900 horsepower 46 ft. 18 ton Carver diesel motor yacht "Summer Romance" down the Hudson River to NYC. (It was hard to get this information because they are very private modest people.) Bill is also Vice President of Friends of the Albany Public Library. They like to read and volunteer for local theater. Enny is a member of the Catskill 3,500 club (All the peaks must be above 3,500 feet.) She has climbed four of the tallest in the winter. Eleven did not have hiking trails. Enny is also a past President of the Appalachian Mountain Club

They love to spend time entertaining their family and friends but always manage to find time to attend most of our annual meetings. “We have enjoyed belonging to a group of enthusiastic owners of a wonderful car.” Bill said.

They are “Always Busy” but when they arrive you know they are going to bring a “boat load of smiles” and have interesting and fun tales to tell.

Oops Bill is a past commodore of the Mohawk-Hudson Council of Yacht Club.

It makes me tired just thinking about all the things they do!



John Cantamessa, the Service Manager of Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls was our host of our May 19th Tech Session. He has been working on M/B cars for twenty-four years. The last sixteen years have been spent at the Wappingers Falls dealership. He started as a tech, became a Master Certified Shop Foreman, and now is the Service Manager. He did all the jobs including Roadside Assistance for a few years.

His oldest daughter, who is now 31, accompanied him on some calls. She was with him on a Saturday night call to Woodstock when he hit a deer and totaled a 1989 300 TE Wagon. The most famous road call was when Henry Kissinger's S-420 broke down. Unfortunately he did not meet Mr. Kissinger, only his body guards. He said that, “The high point of my career was in 2011, when the Service Department of Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls was awarded the prestigious "Best of the Best" award from Mercedes-Benz USA as one of the top performing Service Departments in the country.”

He is a wise and kind man. He has the unique ability to reduce stress no matter how agitated his customers are. He tells them what they must hear honestly, but like a concerned uncle or father without any of the fancy tech talk unless it is absolutely necessary. His customers feel very comfortable dealing with him. They feel that he would never take advantage of them and will have them back on the road as soon as possible and good as new. His employees trust him as well. They know that he is a family man who has paid his dues and come up through the ranks.

John just recently joined HUDMO. We look forward to him becoming an active member and helping the club grow and prosper.

HUDMO CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

- July 8 - Annual Section Car Show - Locust Grove
July 28 - Picnic will be held at the Taghanic State
Park just off the Taconic Parkway in the
town of Ancram. Rain date the 29th.
August 25 - Luncheon at Point Lookout
September 3 - Labor Day at Saratoga Race Track
(See registration below)
September 15 - Wine Tour (details to follow)
September 28-29 - Hemmings New England
October 8 - Clermont Columbus Day Road Rally
Red Hook
October 12-13 - Farberally - Stockbridge
(see registratin below)
November 10 - New Member Luncheon
(time and place to be announced)

They're off for another great season!!!! Join your fellow Mercedes Club members LABOR DAY LUNCH BUFFET Saratoga Race Track Monday, September 3, 2012

\$30.00 includes:

- Buffet, tax and gratuity•Admission to the Club House
- Racing Program and Private Betting Area
- Waite Staff, Cash Bar and Private Rest Rooms

Make checks payable to:

Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club

Mail by 8/11/12 to:

Sandra Griffin, 1045 Palmer Avenue, Niskayuna N.Y.
12309(518) 346-4797; griffin_16810@msn.com
Or Jim Wright: hudsonmohawkmbca@gmail.com

RETURN WITH ORDER

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Number of tickets: _____@ \$30.00* Total _____

Check # _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

*Tickets purchased after August 15, 2012 will be \$35.00
Tickets will be distributed at the Main Track Gate on date
of event

November 16 & 17, 2012 Cape May "Christmas Mercedes-Benz"

Event by Nora Ochwat

This is Northern New Jersey's second trip to Cape May for the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Emlen Physick Estate, which starts the Christmas season. The first trip was in 2008 and this one again will be a lot of fun.

The highlight of our event is the Tree Lighting, house tour and caroling at the Emlen Physick Estate Saturday evening. Trolley rides through Victorian Cape May and Cape May mall (blocked to cars) are within walking distance of the hotels. Venture by car to see the light house at the point as well as the cement WWII partially sunken cement ship and bunkers, or just relax

Friday and Saturday evenings, however, are reserved as group dinner nights.

Congress Hall, boasts hospitality since 1816 and as one of the oldest buildings in Cape May has been refurbished to modern day accommodations yet retains the look and charm of a bygone era. It now houses a spa, boutiques, Tommy's Coffee Shop, a charming old world restaurant, the Blue Pig with an inviting fireplace to take the November chill away and a great hall gathering room to relax and chat.

"Town View" rooms (which can be changed at reservation time at slightly different rates) without efficiency accommodations, are being held in Congress Hall at a rate of \$167+ tax per night. Refrigerator and microwave can be had for an added fee for each item per night. Although coffee machines are not available for the rooms; there is Tommy's Coffee Shop on the main floor. Each room comes with a \$20 breakfast voucher to be used in the Blue Pig restaurant.

The STAR at Congress Hall (a sister hotel, directly across the street) also has been refurbished and sports efficiency accommodations and you can enjoy all of the advantages of Congress Hall's public areas. "Standard" efficiency rooms at \$149 + tax per night also have a \$20.00 per room breakfast voucher at the Blue Pig restaurant. Ample parking will be available.

Those who want an extended weekend may inquire about additional days and rates.

The room block is being held as "Christmas Mercedes Benz" and that is what you will have to ask for when making your reservation and deposit to get the package. Rooms will be held until August 31st, NO EXCEPTIONS, at which time they will be released. For reservations, for either hotel, please call Congress Hall at 1-888-944-1816. Please ask about, and understand, their cancellation policy.

Also, please note that Cape May no longer sleeps after the June to September high summer season. A vibrant season again starts in the beginning of November and extends well into February. If you are thinking of joining the November "Christmas Mercedes Benz" event, you must get your reservations in before the deadline.

Any questions you may have please call 908-852-7772.
See you in Cape May!

FARBERALLYE XXXV

Registration is now open for this fall's Farberallye XXXV! This year's event will be held in the beautiful and historic town of Sturbridge, MA on October 12th to 14th. Participants requiring overnight accommodations can contact the Publick House Historic Inn ([http:// www.publickhouse.com/](http://www.publickhouse.com/)) for reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved and are available at a special group rate under the Mercedes Benz Club of America. Rates start at \$105 per night.

Friday October 12, night will begin the festivities with a cocktail hour hosted by our very own Northeast Regional Director. A scenic drive through central and western MA along with a challenging course/quiz will commence Saturday morning. A rewards dinner will follow that evening at the Publick House. There is a \$75 rallye fee per car. This covers two guests for breakfast Saturday and Sunday and lunch and dinner on Saturday.

To register for this event send the following form and the \$75 rallye fee (Checks made payable to Minuteman Section of MBCA) by September 1st to:

Mark & Becky Fancy
20 Podunk RD
Sturbridge, MA 01566

If you have any questions feel free to contact Mark or Becky Fancy at fancymb@charter.net or 508-347-1814.

Name:

E-mail:

Day Tripping this event: YES NO

Number attending the Friday night's RD cocktail hour: _____

Saturday Box Lunch Choices:

540K: Roasted red peppers, marinated portabella mushroom, avocado, alfalfa sprouts, tomato & onion on wrap

500E: Oven roast beef, sharp cheddar, horseradish sauce, lettuce, tomato & onion on sub roll

300SL: Chicken breast, Monterrey jack cheese, bacon, ranch dressing, lettuce & tomato on sub roll

Saturday Dinner Choices:

Pasta primavera roasted garden vegetables in a light cream sauce

Yankee pot roast with pan gravy, potato/rice, seasoned vegetables

Roast native turkey with potato/rice, seasonal vegetables, corn bread, sausage stuffing, cranberry sauce & pan gravy

TIM'S TIP

We all desire to comfortably cruise around in style, and staying cool this summer can make that cruising so much more enjoyable. There are many dangers with an A/C system, and the most dangerous part of the system can be the refrigerant (Freon) itself. While pre 1995 vehicles used R12, 1995 and newer vehicles utilize R134 as their Freon of choice. The two cannot be mixed with each other. When attempting to check, service or repair your vehicle's A/C system, it is best to leave it up to the professionals (i.e. shops with certified equipment), but there are also many DIY (do-it-yourself) kits that are out there on the market, and although they do a great job of filling the system with Freon, there are some things to look for when shopping for one of these kits. Some kits already contain a stop leak which is included with the refrigerant. This can be beneficial in some cases where you may not be sure if there is a leak in the system. Just remember, if the system has a cracked or broken seal somewhere, the chances of a can of stop leak fixing the broken seal are very slim. Other kits contain UV dye, which can simplify finding a refrigerant leak. The dye is usually colored fluorescent green, and will get all over everything if mishandled. If your A/C system does contain a leak, the dye will usually seep dye through that non-sealing spot, and when hit with a black light will glow, showing off where the leak is. If the system is known to be empty, or if you do not have any experience with an A/C system service, it is HIGHLY recommended not to attempt in servicing it yourself. However, if you feel you have the ability to complete this task, make sure to have the can's supplied connection fitting firmly seated BEFORE allowing any Freon to enter into the system. Most kits include an easy to use fill gauge, which the installer would set the needle at the current outside temperature and fill the system to the recommended range on the gauge. Most brands contain filling instructions on the back side of the can and are very easy to follow along.

—Tim van der Wouden

Legends of the Autobahn 2012

MBCA invites you to be part of the excitement at Legends of the Autobahn 2012, on Friday, August 17. Held on the greens of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel Valley, California, Legends attracted an audience of thousands to view nearly 500 cars on display in 2011.

In 2012, it will be a 4-German-marque concours, with Audi Club of North American joining the other co-hosts MBCA, the BMW Car Club of America, and the Porsche Club of America. This one-day MBCA national special event brings enthusiasts, owners, and aficionados of distinctive German cars together to view four of the finest marques in the world. The event will feature separate club concours judging sites and combined corral parking areas.

Planning for StarFest 2012

StarFest 2012, the premier national event for members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) will be September 28th through October 3rd, 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Accommodations

The Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa will be the center of activity for StarFest 2012. Attractive rates and packages will be available for MBCA members to this 39-acre Hilton Waldorf Astoria Collection property. Additionally, the same guaranteed reduced rate will be available for the days preceding and following the StarFest activities for those who wish to extend their stay in the Valley of the Sun. “The Jewel of the Desert” also features lush gardens and eight glistening swimming pools, seven tennis courts, and a full-service resort spa, salon and fitness center. Adjacent to the grounds are two 18-hole PGA golf courses. The StarFest 2012 promotional code for reservations will be activated soon.

Also see: Arizona Biltmore Resort Activities

The Arizona Biltmore will play host to all StarFest activities, excepting Track Events. Banquets, luncheons, and all ceremonies will be held in the resort’s ballroom. The conference center will host technical sessions and seminars, as well as a Sponsor Expo. The StarFest Road Rallye will start and end at the resort, and will explore hidden and interesting gems throughout the Valley of the Sun. A series of daily activities will also be available, including self-guided scenic tours; on-site spa, championship golf, tennis, and swimming; as well as local museum and shopping excursions. And don’t forget the resort’s croquet, bocce, and life-size lawn chess!

Concours d’Elegance

The Mercedes-Benz Concours d’Elegance will be held on the Squaw Peak Lawn and Cottage Court of the Arizona Biltmore Resort, certain to be the most beautiful Concours venue in the history of the MBCA. Sunday morning features a full assortment of classic and contemporary Mercedes-Benz vehicles on display for judging in fifteen categories. Following judging, the venue will be open to the public with celebrity guests and interviewers, and there will be a series of seminars and exhibits on Concours presentation, vehicle restoration and preservation. Additional secured parking, detailing areas and on-site security will be available.

Track Activities

Firebird International Raceway will host our StarFest 2012 track events. Located just 25 minutes south of the Arizona Biltmore, Firebird is the home of the NHRA Arizona Nationals, powerboat racing, and the Lucas Oil Off-Road Racing series. Three days of activities start with technical inspections, Defensive Driving clinics, and Autocross events. Days two and three feature time trials on Firebird’s 1.6 mile main track, and acceleration runs using the same 1/4 mile drag-strip, Christmas Tree starter lights and electronic timing scoreboard that the NHRA events use – under the lights! There will be plenty of room for spectators in the stands, so be sure to include everyone.

Also see: Firebird International Raceway

The Mercedes-Benz SLS Class



Mercedes-Benz

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MOTOR CAR COMPANY

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Hudson-Mohawk Section

Ron Tanner, President
24 Pleasant View Drive
Hudson, NY 12534

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