



Mercedes-Benz Club of America

# Hudson-Mohawk Section

WINTER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012

Fourth Quarter

## 2012 Year in Review

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### President's Year End Report

Hello fellow members,

Well it sure has been a busy and very enjoyable year. The Hudson-Mohawk Section began its activities in March with our annual Tech Session at Keeler Motor Car and a month later had the same event at recently remodeled Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls. Following these tech sessions with all cars in tip-top shape more activities were enjoyed by an ever increasing number of members. Some of us braved a torrential downpour at our summer picnic while others showed their cars, new and old at our annual Section

show this year at Locust Grove, a great wine tour in the Hudson Valley, a day at the races at Saratoga flat track and so much more.

I hope you had a great time at our year ending event, Holiday Dinner at the Italian American Club in Albany. We will have even more events in 2013, one of which will be a Regional event, details to follow. If you have any suggestions for an upcoming activity or would like to help out on an event, please let me or any Board member know.

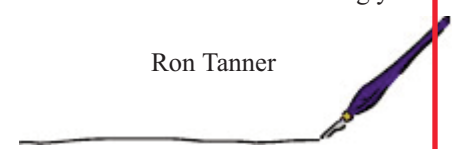
As for the business at hand our membership is stable but we need more members. Our Section is funded in two ways; sponsorship by some very generous businesses and by your membership fee, we receive \$15.00 for each paid up member. Our share of your dues this year totaled \$1,893.00 which helped us underwrite certain events. We have a year end balance in our treasury of \$5,600.00 which will allow us to continue to have activities which all members can enjoy. The Board has gotten a sneak preview of our new website which Jim Wright will tell you about shortly, you are going to love it and perhaps you or your company will want to advertise on it as it will certainly have a high number of "hits".

Currently we are one Director short as a member has left the Board for personal reasons. If you would like to be a Board member please contact me or any Board member. We would be more than happy to give you the details of what being a director entails. This is my last year as President as I feel six years is enough and it is time for new leadership. Next year (2013) you will be asked to elect a new Board and that Board will vote for a new President. Your input into the process would be appreciated, we look for your suggestions to improve our voting methods as they seem to be confusing. If you can help us make this simpler, please let's hear from you.

So now we end the year with great anticipation for the New Year. Our activity calendar will be online and in your mail in January, please look for it and plan to attend as many events as possible.

On behalf of the Board I would like to wish all our members and their loved ones a most Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2013.

Ron Tanner





# MEMBERSHIP THAT PAYS YOU BACK. HANDSOMELY.

Your membership with the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) comes with special privileges, like saving (up to) \$1,500 on the purchase or lease price of a NEW Mercedes-Benz. To qualify, you must be a *current* Member of MBCA and have at least one year of uninterrupted membership with the Club, prior to your NEW car lease or purchase. See details below.

## U.S. Members – Get \$1,000 off a NEW Mercedes-Benz

If you are a current U.S. Member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and have been a Member for at least 12 consecutive months prior to purchasing or leasing a NEW 2013 or NEW 2014 (when available) Mercedes-Benz vehicle, you are considered a “Member in Good Standing” and automatically qualify for a \$1,000 price discount.

### Are You a Member in Good Standing?



It's easy to find out. Visit the Club website at [mbca.org](http://mbca.org). Click the 'Login' button at the top right corner of the page then enter your username and password. If you've been a Club Member for 12 consecutive months or longer, a Member in Good Standing symbol will appear at the bottom left of your personal profile page.

From your profile page, go to 'click here' for time-sensitive terms and conditions and to print an official Loyalty Reward Certificate redeemable at Mercedes-Benz Dealerships in the U.S.. Go to your favorite Mercedes-Benz Dealership then present your Certificate to the Dealer on the day you make your purchase. The Dealer will take \$1,000 off the price of your NEW car.\*

\*Excludes Sprinter Vans, smart, SLS AMG Coupes & SLS AMG Roadsters. Discount may not be combined with other Mercedes-Benz Certificate Programs or offers including, but not limited to: Master Lease Program and European Delivery. Please read online rules carefully.



## Canadian Members – Get (up to) \$1,500 off a NEW Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Canada Fleet Services Division wants to reward MBCA's loyal Canadian Members with (up to) \$1,500 off the purchase or lease price of a NEW Mercedes-Benz.

1. Take this ad to your local authorized Mercedes-Benz Dealership in Canada and negotiate the best price for a NEW 2013 Mercedes-Benz.\* Tell the Dealer you are eligible for the “New Car Discount Program” and present your current/valid MBCA membership card.
2. Your Dealer will automatically deduct the following amount from the price of your NEW Mercedes. Discount CAN be combined with current retail, finance and lease offers:

Note: Dealership salespeople ONLY may contact Daniel Snell, Fleet Marketing Coordinator, Mercedes-Benz Canada at [daniel.snell@mercedes-benz.ca](mailto:daniel.snell@mercedes-benz.ca) or 416.847.7508.

### 2013 Models MBCA Discount

(Canadian Members ONLY)

B-Class	\$500
C-Class	\$750
E-Class (all models)	\$750
S-Class	\$1,500
SLK-Class	\$750
SL-Class	\$1,500
CL-Class	\$1,500
CLS-Class	\$1,500
GLK-Class	\$750
M-Class	\$750
R-Class	\$750
smartfortwo	\$500

\*Excludes all Demonstrator and AMG vehicles



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

**Questions? Call the National Business Office 800.637.2360 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Mountain Time**



## “I AM the Internet.” “One Man, One Engine.”

Brett Kropf is one of our newest members. He brings to our club, a love of cars and all things mechanical, enthusiasm, a spirit of cooperation and a mastery of the World Wide Web. And a great sense of humor!

Brett has repaired and modified cars since he was a teenager. His first rebuilding experience began by repairing and maintaining an elderly neighbor's lawnmower. She rewarded him with the use of her vacant garage for his automobile modification projects. That's when the car collecting adventure and need for speed began.

But first, this is how I met Brett in his own words.

“While I was getting recall work done at Keeler Motor Car in Latham, NY, on Nov. 5th, I learned about the MBCA and took the HUDMO newsletter home with me. Seeing the tentative New Member Luncheon scheduled, I called a few numbers and spoke first with VP, Jim Wright. Before emailing me some more newsletters, he asked if I was on dial-up or broadband. I joked, "I AM the Internet". He soon learned that I meant that I own and operate a data center that hosts web sites, and other Internet related services. He was ecstatic and promised to call me later that night. Before he called back, I discovered that MBCA-HUDMO.com was available, and I registered it before someone could cyber squat it.” He said.

We hit it off instantly. We are both “VAMPIRES”. We do our most effective work at night and would prefer to sleep until sundown unless there is something really important to do. I had been looking for a webmaster and at about 3am he appeared cape and all. Brett has agreed to be our new webmaster. He will keep our new website up to date and make it more interactive.(mbca-hudmo.com)

“As a near descendent of at least 13 generations of German speaking Swiss Kropfs, it was inevitable that I would be a Mercedes-Benz enthusiast.” Brett said.

“In 2006, my Lincoln 4.6L 'interference motor' jumped its timing chain, and while motor hunting, I discovered the Mercedes Benz C-Class and a near pristine '99 C280 Sport with only 28,100 miles and bought it. I discovered the AMG story, and soon purchased a '99 C43 from San Diego via an eBay no-reserve auction. I parked the C280 Sport to keep it like-new for the next owner, who drove it to Dallas in November of this year.” Brett said.

Brett's father who is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, died when he was only two years old and it was up to his mom to keep him from buying and building a land rocket. But, he did it anyway.

His first car was a \$25.00 1963 Corvair. He wanted a Mach 1 Mustang that cost \$4971.00. His mother said, “no way” she would not loan him money for a hot-rod Mustang, but she would loan him \$1300.00 to buy her flight instructor's one year-old '71 Pinto. With mom as the bank, the choice was clear.

“I started working in the Parts Department at a Ford dealer in Kingston about a year after graduating from high school. I needed the pay checks because I was living on my own.” He said.

“When I wasn't working I raced my stock 2.0L Pinto at Lebanon Valley Speedway and was virtually undefeated. I still have a cabinet full of trophies to show for it. One night in Kingston I was humbled



by a '65 Mustang. I learned that he had put a "Boss 302" motor in it. It was immediately very clear that I needed one of those motors! The Trans-Am inspired Boss 302s were out of production in 1970, but working at the Ford dealership, I ordered the parts to build a brand new Boss 302 motor. In true AMG spirit “One Man One Engine.”

In 1976, I shoe-horned it into the Pinto along with a Lakewood Bell housing, a toploader transmission, 9" Rear end, bigger brakes and a better steering system and custom headers. Piece by piece, it took me three months to build just the headers. Eight months later on Friday the 13th of August 1976, "Tiny Boss" came to life! A three hundred plus "Boss" horsepower motor in a "Tiny" 2,000 pound car was even more fun to drive than a real Mach 1 Mustang. It was a "neck snapping" street car that was driven between New York, Illinois, Florida and even to Nova Scotia.

Family life settled in and other big projects like building a large house and three businesses, one Solar and two Computer based. That kept me occupied for the next three decades. Beyond various family vehicles, I've owned an '88 Thunderbird 5.0L Sport and a '95 Lincoln Continental 4.6L. I used my C43 as my "daily-driver." The Pinto was tucked away with headers rusted beyond repair until I sold the rolling chassis this summer.

I was free with no wife and no day-to-day parenting responsibilities. Shortly thereafter, an existing business client called looking for part-time work and became my business-partner, and not long after that, Debra then became my life-partner. We love to work together and travel together. She doesn't mind my crazy schedule ..... or should I say “My Crazy.” We have great fun together.

I purchased a rebuilt 2-post asymmetric lift and had it installed into my 12 foot ceiling garage for \$1800. I had had enough of working beneath cars on a creeper.

To find out more about this very interesting car enthusiast check-out his web sites:

<http://Kropf.us/1999C43> will soon say "Sold".

<http://Kropf.us/2005E55/>

<http://mbworld.org/forums/members/56998-kropf.html>

Hostmaster: <http://MBCA-HudMo.com/>

### TRY OUR NEW WEBSITE [mbca-hudmo.com](http://mbca-hudmo.com)

It will have many new features including, car care tips, technical question and answers, member items for sale, events held by other organizations that may be of interest to our members, newsletter archives and photos of past events.

I found a Black E55 with non-Pano roof, GPS/Navigation, Dynamic Seats, Parktronics, Keyless Go, Xenons, Sirius Radio, and Trunk Closer. In September, Debra and I flew down to Houston and picked up the beauty.

While it is still evolving it is in fine working order. We welcome your comments and suggestions to make it as user friendly and accessible as possible. You can even get it on your smart phone.

You can also contact our national office and HUDMO board members from the site. Go ahead give it a try click away.



### We Had a Lot of Fun!



7	10	36	46	24	12	12	7	2	5			
121,442	30,579	22,080	19,808	6,514	4,116	3,809	7,707	14,223	14,877	22,702	68,656	28,28
87,880	12,727	7,242	6,788	2,496	1,617	1,577	3,591	4,898	6,261	9,265	33,261	16,547
47,632	6,674	4,637	2,833	1,301	1,178	1,791	2,384	3,610	2,651	5,352	11,621	5,784



We Missed You!







Coming Events



StarTech 2013
Come for the Tech. Stay for the Fun.



Birmingham, Alabama • May 18-22, 2013

What: StarTech 2013, a premier bi-annual event of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Why: Join us at StarTech 2013 in Birmingham, Alabama for an adventure in Mercedes-Benz technology & tours YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE!
Your adventure includes: A VIP tour of Mercedes-Benz US International (MBUSI) - the ONLY U.S. factory that produces every ML-, GL- and R-Class in the world. You'll also meet & learn from nationally-known experts in the art of restoration, modification, maintenance & repair; all inside MBUSI's on-site Training Center
Take touring laps around Barber Motorsports road course & explore their world-famous Motorsports Museum
Visit Classic Car Motoring to see how Mercedes-Benz models are polished & prepped for the world's finest auto shows
Tour the U.S. Space & Rocket Center
Stroll the beautiful Aldridge Gardens
Enjoy the snow-white sands of Alabama's Emerald Coast & nearby Florida Panhandle
So much to see & do - make StarTech your May vacation. The perfect time of year!

Who: StarTech 2013 is open to all MBCA Members and their guests
Cost: Accommodations at the Hilton Perimeter South Hotel from \$111/night (double occupancy)
How: Visit www.StarTech2013.org or www.alabama.mbcas.org or contact Liz Roberson at lzroberson2013@gmail.com for details/information
Hosted By: Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Alabama Section



- Annual Tech Sessions
Keeler Motor Car Co.
Latham, NY
Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls
Wappingers Falls, NY
Annual Picnic
Annual Car Show
New Member Luncheon
Fun Driving Events
Annual Day at the Races
Labor Day, Saratoga, NY
Fall Foliage Tour
Holiday Party
Dates to be announced

New Members

- David Bardsley.....Malta, NY
Ann Marie Depasquale.....Valatie, NY
Oleksiy Khinchegashvili.....Binghamton, NY
Brett Kropf.....Kingston, NY
William Leone.....Albany, NY
William McKeever.....Rome, NY
Richard Rauch.....New Paltz, NY
Francis Robertson Jr.....Unadilla, NY
Richard Rubin.....Slingerlands, NY
Robert Stevens.....Rhinebeck, NY

Collage of newsletters and articles from the Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz Club, including sections on 'Operation Restore June 13, 2009', 'Carlos Helgmann', and 'Fall Mid-Hudson Brewery & Winery Tour'.



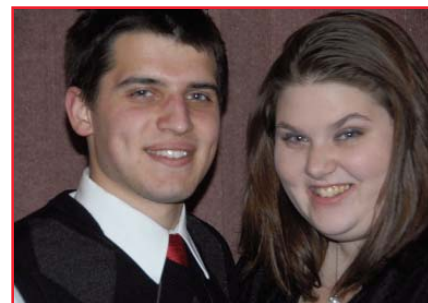
## The Hudson-Mohawk Mercedes-Benz HOLIDAY PARTY A BIG SUCCESS

It was a great turnout for our annual holiday party and everyone who came showed a great deal of holiday spirit. Attendance was augmented by a very special announcement by our treasurer George van der Wouden. His son Steven and the rest of the van der Wouden family used the occasion to celebrate his engagement to Meagan Markessinis.

President, Ron Tanner reviewed the club's activities and briefed the group on the upcoming 2013 events which will include hosting a regional event. A slide show of the year's programs was prepared by Tim van der Wouden. There were a lot of smiles as pleasant memories of the past year were viewed.

The holiday dinner party was held Saturday, December 16, 2012, at Treviso by Mallozzi's at the Italian American Community Center, 257 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, New York.

Many thanks go out to Chuck and Bobbi Trimarchi for planning the event and seeing it through to its very successful completion.





# The Mercedes-Benz SLS Class



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Hudson-Mohawk Section

Ron Tanner, President  
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