



Hudson Mohawk Section

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

HOLIDAY EDITION 2013

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2013

SPECIAL ISSUE

NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Ernie Fancy fancyer@cox.net

Section President

Jim Wright

26 Crystal Lane

Delmar, New York 12054

518.281.3406

HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com

Vice President

Chuck Trimarchi

61 Mordella Road

Albany, New York 12205

518.869.6542

chucktrimarchi@yahoo.com

Acting Secretary

Chuck Trimarchi

Newsletter Editor

Jim Wright

Treasurer

George van der Wouden

230 Central Avenue

Schenectady, New York 12304

thevanderwoudenfamily@yahoo.com

Membership Chairperson

Saundra Griffin

Photography

Kirk Daniels

Board of Directors

Saundra Griffin

Vickie Parker

Chuck Trimarchi

George van der Wouden

Tim van der Wouden

Jim Wright

Past Presidents

Ron Tanner

Ginnette Maslanka

Technical Advisors

Rick Walker rick.walker@keeler.com

Dan Rothstein drothstein@keeler.com

Website Address MBCA-HudMo.com

Website Coordinator [Jim Wright](mailto:Jim.Wright@HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com)

HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@gmail.com

Webmaster [Brett Kropf](mailto:Brett.Kropf@HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA.com)

Brett@kropf.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT, TERRENCE KIWALA

On behalf of the National Board and the National Business Office, I want to wish the members of the Hudson Mohawk Section and their families a happy and healthy holiday season.

If there is one New Year's resolution that you should make, it is to attend as many MBCA events as possible this year. Our members are the Club's best asset and enjoying the company of others who share similar interests' makes for a fulfilling MBCA experience.

You will be soon working on a variety of events that cater to different interests, be it showing your car in Concours, learning safety techniques at defensive driving classes, or learning to keep your car in top shape at a technical session. With a broad array of events and really unique people that attend these events, I am sure that you will find, just as I did 20 years ago, that there is a lot to gain when you get involved - it will be one of the best decisions you make.

I want to congratulate and thank James Wright for a year of dedicated service, and to send good wishes in his term as President. I hope to meet you at a section or regional event in the coming year, and hear about why you love your car. In the meantime, drive safely and Happy New Year.

The HUDMO BOARD NEEDS TO UPDATE THE MEMBERSHIP FILES SO THAT WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH YOU.

It helps our bottom line to connect with you using email. Most of the time when members change their internet providers they do not notify us. Please send us your preferred email address. If your status has changed please let us know. If you have a special skill or a contribution you want to make, please share it with us. The club needs your participation. The more involved you become the better the organization will be. It's your club! You can email us or leave messages on www.MBCA-HudMo.com. Help us make 2014 the best year ever!!

A Message from Ernie Fancy
Northeast Regional Director



Regional and National News.

I had a great time at the Hudson-Mohawk Concours show and had hoped to make your "Day at the Track" but unfortunately we were unable to make it. I am hoping to see you all next year.

The National Board meeting was held the first week in November. We elected a new slate of officers:

- President - Terry Kiwala - Western Reserve
- Vice President - Laura Simonds - Bay Area
- Treasurer - Bill Denton - Chicagoland
- Secretary - Jim Luikens - Michigan

The club store has contracted with a supply house for all logo clothing. The National Business Office will continue selling pens, mugs, key chains and other hard goods.

MBCA plans to develop a defensive driving program along with the Education Foundation's Teen Driver Safety Program. I am looking for volunteers in the region to become the experts for the events and be willing to run them throughout the region. If you are interested please let me know.

Have a great New Year.

Ernie

Ernie Fancy Northeast Regional Director
fancyer@cox.net

Happy Holidays and a Safe and Prosperous New Year

At this time of the year we all try to connect or reconnect with our family and friends. We in HUDMO have our own family and we need to get to know each other better. To start the ball rolling, I will be calling every member to say hello and get your impressions, opinions and suggestions to help make the organization as desirable to belong to as possible.

I will establish regional groups that will, with the board's help, sponsor events and meetings closer to where you live. Most of our meetings are in the capital district because that seems to be where the most enthusiastic participation is. Hopefully that will change if we get to know the membership better by making it easier to attend meetings.

One of the ways I plan to get to know you better with is, featuring member profiles in our quarterly newsletter and on the HUDMO website. On the website you will be able to sell your cars, advertise your business and sell other Benz related goods. www.MBCA-HudMO.com.

HUDMO board meetings are always held on the fourth Thursday of the month. A special notice will be sent to you if there is a change. I hope to see you at our January meeting. Please write and let me know what's on your mind.

DRIVE SAFELY AND START ON THE ROAD TO A HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Jim Wright, President

An Invitation to Our Members

The board would like you to attend some of our events! When we call members prior to many of our scheduled events, we hear remarks indicating that people are reluctant to attend because they may not know anyone there. You should be aware that we all started that way! In the spring of each year we hold a "New Members Luncheon," at which we briefly discuss and show images of our recent past activities, introduce officers and board members, raffle off prizes and enjoy an informal lunch together. We invite, at our expense, members that joined the club during the preceding year. We also invite all our other members and we keep the cost for them to attend very reasonably priced to encourage participation. Because it's the purpose of the luncheon, it is a great opportunity to greet and meet club members and begin to establish friendships with other Mercedes Benz enthusiasts. You will be pleased and surprised at how many great people we have in the club, and how much you have in common with many of us. Why don't you come out to this year's luncheon, to be held in May, whether you are new or not, and bring a guest? I assure you that you will find friendly, like-interested members that you will look forward to seeing again at some of our other wonderful events that President Jim Wright has planned for us in 2014!

Cheers,
Chuck Trimarchi, Vice President

2013 RALLYE AND TOUR

On Saturday October 5, 2013 our annual Fall Foliage Rally and Tour was held in the Red Hook area of Dutchess County, New York.

The event started at noon after an 11:30AM drivers meeting. The route through beautiful rolling hills and horse farms was as challenging as it was beautiful. It was more than a little tricky and required concentration and a good navigator. Just in case all participants were given a sealed plain white envelope with directions to the hotel where lunch was held.

This has always been one of the clubs most popular events.

The Rallye Meister was Ron Tanner. Vice president Chuck Trimarchi partnered with Ron by testing the route and providing a booklet with the questions and clues.

Ron is currently negotiating a joint venture with the Finger Lakes Region for a two day rallye and tour of central New York's wineries.



The winners of this year's rallye were Dan Borkosky and Gail.

We are looking forward to a very innovative and productive 2014. The board and I need your suggestions and participation to ensure that HUDMO continues to grow and prosper.

Please share with us any thoughts or ideas that will contribute to the recruitment of new members and the retention of current members.

Membership has many benefits. Discounts on purchases of vehicles as well as service visits are two very important ones. Most importantly sharing time with your friends and making new friends are the greatest benefits. Let's have some fun, learn about our cars and have a great driving season

Jim Wright, President.

In 2013 the Hudson-Mohawk Section gained thirty-eight new members. Our members can be from any of the following zip codes. The Hudson-Mohawk Section includes all five digit zip codes that begin with the following numbers:

120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 133, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139, 012 Welcome New Members!

First Name	Last Name	City	State
George	Bigaouette	Clifton Park	NY
Bruno	Bonetti	Kingston	NY
David J	Braga	Clinton Corners.	NY
George	Buldrini	Niskayuna	NY
Raymond	Burton	Valatie	NY
Noah	Butkus	Great Barrington	MA
John	Capozzola	Delmar	NY
Marvin	Chudnoff	Demarest	NJ
Tom	Cobush	Albany	NY
Garry	Dallman	Albany	NY
William	Dobransky	Fishkill	NY
Melissa	Evans	Wappingers Falls	NY
Robert	Everett	Kingston	NY
Edward	Fiore	Rome	NY
Harry	Furtunis	Newburgh	NY
William	Gusten	Saratoga Springs	NY
George	Hannah	Ballston Spa	NY
Marsha	Himler	Stillwater	NY
Katherine	Jones-Voorhees	Utica	NY
Craig	Keefer	Glenmont	NY
John	Kelty	Albany	NY
Donald	Kritzer	Hunter	NY
Jay	Lief	Woodstock	NY
Mary	Moore	Gloversville	NY
Elizabeth	Murphy	New Paltz	NY
Deborah	Newkirk	Albany	NY
Kevin	Nicoll	Pittsfield	MA
James	Oreilly	Bolton Landing	NY
Victor	Pietruccia	Greenfield Center	NY
Joseph	Pomponio	Albany	NY
William	Pratt	Coxsackie	NY
William	Salmeri	Lake Luzerne	NY
Vanessa	Slominski	Claverack	NY
Brian	Stanley	Clifton Park	NY
Andreas	Zambas	Kingston	NY
Qibin	Zhang	Richfield Springs	NY

Dinner, Awards, Prizes and Dancing..... All in the same night!!!!

This year's holiday party was held at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York on Wolf Road. It was well attended and everyone had a great time. Bob McShane wrote and administered a quiz, "What Do You Know About The Mercedes Benz". The winners received prizes.

30 Club members and friends attended the Annual Hudson Mohawk Mercedes Benz Holiday Party on December 7, 2013. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres followed by a sit down dinner.

- Glen and Barbara Lawson received the Member of the Year Award. This award was given as a result of their continuous and steadfast work and support to make club activities successful.
- Recognition was given to retiring Board Member, David Bullard who served 12 years. David is responsible for arranging the Club's Tech Clinics and the recruitment of our new president, Jim Wright. The club will strive to continue the quality and caliber of the legacy he leaves, but no one will match his distinctive humor.
- Saundra Griffin was given the 1st Presidents' Award for her exuberance, dependability, hard work and leadership as Membership Chair. She also received a "You Make a Difference" award from the National Business Office.
- A special thanks to member Tom Dobush, from Bavarian Rocket Science R & D, who provided gift certificates, safety inspections and tee shirts. Newly elected board member, Vickie Parker, donated Mary Kay cosmetic gift packages as door prizes.
- President James Wright introduced new club tee shirts and hats. Some were given as prizes to attendees.
- The evening ended with enthusiastic participation of the club's men successfully learning the dance (Electric Slide) taught by lovely guest, Sandra Powell. Who said club men can't dance!!!!



At the Annual Holiday Party a new hat and tee shirt was unveiled. Members are encouraged to purchase them to assist HUDMO in fundraising activities for charitable contributions and other club functions. Hats and shirts can be ordered from membership chairman Saundra Griffin or ordering on www.mbca-hudmo.com.

HUDMO Logo Tee Shirts \$28.00

Benz Nut leather berets \$45.00

Support your clubs' fundraising efforts.

2014 IS GOING TO BE FUN AND VERY PRODUCTIVE

Here is what we have planned for the coming year. Some of the specific dates are not listed but the months are. So consider this a heads up on HUDMO's events for the year.

January will be used for planning and reflecting on what we can do more effectively and efficiently, especially recruiting younger members and potential members who lease cars. We need to prove to young people that it is not just your grandfather's club. The meeting will be held at the Marriot Hotel on Wolf Road in Albany, New York. That will be January 23, at 6:30PM. All members are invited to board meetings we have dinner at 6.00PM.

February will be a continuation of the planning started in January. We will also have a speaker discuss preparing your vehicle for the spring driving season. HUDMO will help WAMC public radio with a fund drive. We need volunteers. The dates available are February 6, from 11:00AM to 2:00PM and February 8, 5:00PM to 9:00PM. We plan to have a cabin fever party and are open for ideas and suggestions.

March: There will be more event planning and discussions about preparations for the driving season.

In April we will have our annual Tech Event, which will be held at Keeler Motor Car on Troy Schenectady Road in Latham, New York.

In May we will have our annual new member luncheon and what will become our annual golf tournament. Leadership will be provided by Vickie Parker and Kirk Daniels. Both are avid golfers. The event will be held on May 17th at the Normanside Country Club in Delmar.

June will offer a barbeque cook-off showdown and family picnic. If you think you can cook and want to compete. Contact us.

July 19th will be when we hold our annual car show at the Saratoga Auto Museum. On July 14th a breakfast event will be held at the Saratoga Race Track.

In August we will have our first drive in movie event. Members will be able to have a blast from the past. A Polo match event is planned too. Sandra Griffin is the host.

September: Annual Day at Races in Saratoga on Labor Day.

October will bring a wine tour and rallye. We are planning a two day event in New York's Finger Lakes. Ron tanner will be hosting

November: Polar Express train Ride.

December is when we have our annual holiday party.

"STARS AT THE SPA" in Saratoga Springs, New York in July



If you want to see all of the photos from "Stars at the Spa"
Go to the HUDMO website www.mbca-hudmo.com.

LET'S TALK TECHNICAL BY TOM DOBUSH

What is the most important part of your car? Give it some thought. Which part is needed in order for all of the vehicle's systems to operate to their maximum performance and efficiency? When you whittle it down the answer becomes clear. The engine? No. How about the brakes? Negative. Suspension? Transmission? Nope and nope. All of these systems cannot function properly without tires. After all, the tires are the only part of a car that actually makes contact with the road surface.

When you take the example to the extreme it becomes easier to understand. For instance look at any type of auto racing these days, tires are always a big talking point. Differences in brand and compound, whether or not to run slicks, intermediates or full on rain tires. When it comes to the last ten laps of any race, the car with the freshest or best managed tires has the advantage. You can have the most powerful engine on the planet, but if you do not have the correct tires to handle all that power, pretty soon you will just be spinning your wheels. Big brakes are great, but are only effective when the tires they are connected to have grip. Suspension and steering are equally connected. Tires are at the root of all of these important systems.

So if tires are the most important part on any car, why are they so often over looked? It is all too common in the auto repair industry to see very nice cars with either neglected, worn out tires or simply the wrong tires.

Discount tire centers are very popular these days as there is a ton of competition in this market segment. Usually good for consumers, competition drives prices down, however in this scenario, it may have pushed prices down too far. Let me explain. Nowadays, many folks allow their price sensitivity to persuade them into saving a few dollars on brand X tires that are cheaper and supposed to last longer. More bang for your buck, right? Not exactly, the rubber that the tires are made of have a maximum shelf life of five years, and sometimes they sit on the shelf for a year or two before they get sold and installed. Many folks purchase high mileage tires that are supposed to last at least fifty thousand miles, but only drive 5-10 thousand miles per year at most. The math doesn't quite add up. Why not choose tires that have more grip and performance (read: shorter stopping distance, better cornering feedback, i.e. safer) that may only last two years or twenty thousand miles, but increase driving safety and enjoyment dramatically. Over time, the cost differences become negligible, especially since the other systems in your vehicle will be operating more efficiently and therefore wear at a slower pace. If this is true for regular daily drivers, it is only exaggerated further in sports cars and weekend toys. Bottom line: tires are the most important part of your vehicle. Period. Don't skimp on them.

Now that we've established that fact, the next point of discussion is how we approach taking care of our tires. Let's talk tire pressures. There are many schools of thought here and we could discuss this all day but the basics are all you really need to know. Every vehicle has a factory recommendation for correct tire pressures, usually located

in the owners' manual, on a sticker in the door jam, trunk or deck lid or in some cases on the gas flap. Do you know what your factory recommended specification for cold tire pressures is? Most drivers do not. If you do, good for you, you are ahead of the game. If not, find out. An under inflated tire not only wears out more quickly and unevenly but most importantly is a very common and huge safety risk!

Do yourself a favor next time you fill up your gas tank and purchase yourself a stick or pen type tire pressure gauge for a dollar or two and keep it in your glove box or tool kit. Tire pressures should be checked at least once a month at the very minimum. Ideally, you want to check it every time you drive it, just like we would with a race car. This might not be practical or realistic everyday so a fair compromise is once every week to two weeks, basically as often as possible, even if you have to ask a technician or gas station attendant to do it for you. Also make sure you have caps on all of your valve stems, the cap is what actually holds the air inside of the tire, the little Schrader valve inside the stem is only for letting air in and out and not intended to keep the air in forever.

Do not rely on the Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) if your car is equipped with one. It usually states this right in your owners' manual, the TPMS is meant to supplement an actual gauge. While these systems are helpful in avoiding driving on a flat tire, most systems are not very accurate and will not alert the driver to a slight tire pressure change, which could cause a tire to wear out prematurely or unevenly.

While we are on the TPMS subject, let me also address over inflation. It seems many folks see a flat tire warning light and add air to the tires to make the warning light go out, unfortunately it is often way too much! The factory specs are very specific to temperature and load, while the tire often has a maximum inflation pressure on the sidewall. This maximum is not equal to the recommended pressure! Tires that are over inflated will wear out just as quickly as under inflated tires and are just as dangerous because of a reduction in the amount of tire that makes contact with the road. Really, you do not want to be off from the factory specs by +/- 2 psi!

The next order of business concerning proper tire usage, wear and safety is your car's suspension health and alignment. The state of your suspension and alignment can completely change the character of your vehicle from confident to downright dangerous. Look for more information in the next issue's upcoming article. As always, I greatly appreciate your questions and feedback and can be easily reached at BavarianRocketScience@gmail.com. Thanks for reading and happy motoring!

Many of our members have the good fortune to be self-employed doing what they love. Tom Dobush of Bavarian Rocket Science is one who does just that. He has agreed to be a resource to help solve technical automotive problems and to publish a quarterly column in our newsletter featuring the latest innovations as well as some cures for the problems with the vintage cars we own and love.

HUDMO PROFILES



We know that Mercedes Benz owners are fun and interesting but some are very surprising. Bound together by our love of the cars we rarely talk about what you were doing before you owned your first Benz. When we do, we are rewarded with stories that are on par with books on the New York Times best seller lists. With this revelation in mind, we are going to feature some of the accomplishments, deeds and adventures of our members. This profile was published in Spring of 2009. Bill Kitchen died on December 30th, his eighty-first birthday. This is a tribute to him and his wife Ruth.

Bill Kitchen who resides in the sleepy little village of Fly Creek just outside of Cooperstown, NY, always has a quiet grace about him. He looks like he has seen it all and maybe done it all and nothing will surprise him. After looking at his resume I know why he has that inner smile. Bill has held a variety of high level jobs in the corporate world. The most notable and enjoyable was with TIME magazine where he created, developed and executed sales presentations, and established marketing strategies for sales personnel. This greatly increased revenues and captured new business clients. Bill worked for TIME magazine from 1967 until 1971. He has had many other corporate management jobs in advertising and sales. One of the spokespersons for a commercial he produced was the late former President Ronald Reagan. So when I asked him if he missed the busy high powered life he used to lead, He said; "I like the rolling hills of the Cooperstown area and being able to see the sky without looking up. I would rather stop for a herd of cows than a traffic light."

Bill spent most of his professional life in Darien, Connecticut and commuted to New York City by train. He purchased his first Benz in 1991. It was a 1971, 250C. His second Mercedes was a 450SLC. Bill has always liked the "70's style best. Today his daily driver is a 1989 300E. Bill still has all of his cars. He has been thinking about restoring them for about seven years. He may sell them on EBAY to a person that loves them as much as he does because it may be cheaper to replace them than to restore them to their past glory.

When he and Ruth moved to Fly creek there was a terrible snow storm. Rather than put the cars in the garage Bill decided to wait until the storm was over to dig them out and park them in the garage. Much to his chagrin the storm wasn't completely over until spring. He watched the snow get higher and higher until the cars were just two mounds in the snow. Fearing the worst he went out to try and start them in the spring and they both started right up. That's why he loves Mercedes Benz'. Bill says that his cars were a pleasure drive and his 300 E still is. He has taken many trips along the east coast and to the Midwest and his Benz' have never let him down.

I asked how he spends his time when he is not looking at the sky and waiting for cows to cross the road. "My primary job is being a good husband and supporting my wife Ruth who is an executive and college administrator. I have been working on my family genealogy. The Kitchens arrived in Salem Massachusetts from England in 1653. There are a large population of Kitchens in Southampton County Virginia and I am trying to find out how we are linked. I'd like to leave a record of this connection for my children and grandchildren." He said.

Bill is most proud of his wife Ruth who gave up a VP job and a lucrative business career to teach and give something back to the community. He said; "One of Bills most memorable adventures was sailing across the Atlantic in the early 1980's. His ship, the Zeebard, a sixty foot Dutch barge with sails, traveled from Grand Canary Island off the coast of Spain to Antigua in the Caribbean. He was a member of a crew of eight. "I owned a thirty-seven foot Egg Harbor, which I had lived on for a couple of years and had done a great deal of sailing in Long Island Sound, so the trip across the Atlantic was an opportunity to really enjoy the sailing skills I had acquired. We experienced wonderful sunrises and magnificent sunsets. The solitude and the vastness of the ocean reinforced how insignificant we all are.

All of the tasks that had to be done and the "hustle and bustle" of everyday life didn't matter and neither did we. We could have been lost and we would not have been missed. And to think we did it all on the ship's ration of two beers a day."

"I only have one regret that comes to mind. When I was discharged from the Navy in San Diego, I had an opportunity to travel across country on a motorcycle and I didn't do it. I had spent two years of my four year hitch on the aircraft carrier USS Hancock CVA19 working on steam catapults for jet fighters. The wide open spaces were really inviting."

Bill and his wife Ruth are a lot of fun and we hope they continue to be active participants in the Hudson Mohawk club.

Watch out for those cows!

If you have an adventure or an interesting story please send it to HUDSONMOHAWKMBCA@GMAIL.COM.

Bill knew his time was near and because he was a classy guy he left us this farewell message. Send your condolences to RBENNETTKITCHEN@AOL.

Hi ALL,

WELL, I'VE EMBARKED ON A NEW JOURNEY AND YOU ARE NOT COMING.

"WHERE TO?" YOU MIGHT ASK.

"WHY THE NEXT STOP, OR COURSE."

WHILE HERE, I'VE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE TWO WIVES WHO HAVE LOVED ME, GREAT CHILDREN, WONDERFUL GRANDCHILDREN, AND MANY FRIENDS.

"THE NEXT STOP" WILL BE A WONDROUS PLACE WITH LUSH GREEN MOUNTAINS, SUNSHINE, AND, ABOVE ALL, A PEACEFUL WORLD.

REMEMBER, I WILL BE NO FARTHER AWAY FROM YOU THAN YOUR THOUGHTS AND HEARTS WILL ALLOW.

"CHEATED DEATH AGAIN?" -- NO MORE!

BILL

Introducing the All-New Mercedes-Benz CLA-Class

Style you'd sell your soul for,
at a price that lets you keep it.

Starting at
\$29,900.*

* Excludes all options, taxes, title, registration,
\$925 transportation charge, and dealer prep fee.



Mercedes-Benz

Keeler
MOTOR CAR COMPANY

Rte. 7, Latham, New York
(518) 785-4197 • www.keeler.com

Happy New Year!



Mercedes-Benz Club of America
Hudson-Mohawk Section

Jim Wright, President
Hudson – Mohawk Section MBCA
P.O. BOX 38294
ALBANY, NY
12203

Need Roadside assistance? Call: 1-800-FOR MERCEDES
Please renew your membership
Hudson-Mohawk Section
YEAR IN REVIEW, JANUARY 2014