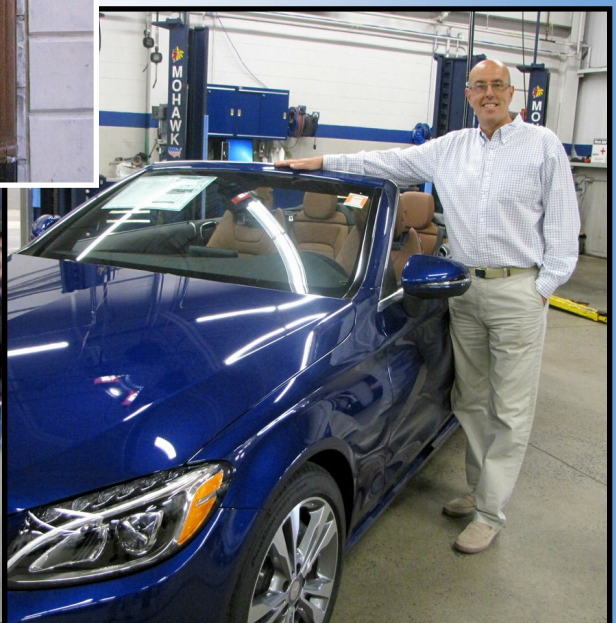




HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION Mercedes-Benz Club of America

2017 WINTER-EARLY SPRING

ALTHOUGH MANY MEMBERS PUT THEIR CARS IN STORAGE FOR THE ICY, COLD MONTHS, **HUDMO** HAD SEVERAL FUN ACTIVITIES TO KEEP OUR ENGINES RUNNING.....



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



Well, spring is finally here and the driving season is starting to gain momentum. It's time to get our vehicles ready for all the fun that traveling over hill and dale can bring. We can plan our routes and our visits to familiar places as well as exotic new ones. Half the fun is getting there in our magnificent driving machines and enjoying the flora and fauna as we go. These adventures are a great deal more rewarding if we share them with family and friends.

You have family and friends that you may not

have considered or are aware of, your fellow **HUDMO** members. Because we all own or love the same car, a "MERCEDES-BENZ", it makes us cousins or at least car buddies. Very few driving experiences are more fun than being part of a small or large caravan. Pick an interesting place and ask one of your family members to go with you. You don't have to have a structured rally to have a great day trip. We'll take care of the complicated rallies. When you do, take some photos; write a few sentences describing your trip and send it to me. If you need some suggestions write me.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments to make our club more fun or relevant, PLEASE let me know. We want to retain our current members and recruit new people. We need your help.

Lessons from a Garage Mishap

Chuck Trimarchi, Hudson Mohawk Section, Board Vice President



Thought I'd write a short note for our newsletter with a word to the wise about some lessons learned this past winter. On a particularly frigid morning with the outside temperature hovering a few degrees below zero, I was heading out to pick up our grand daughter at 7:30 am, and, as always as I entered the garage, I hit the switch to activate the garage door opener to get my 2003 CLK 320 Cabriolet out. As always, the door immediately started up, I got in the car, started it and started to back out. I glanced at the passenger side mirror, which had automatically tipped down to show the curb, as I was looking out the rear window (not too big a view in a cabriolet) When I looked back through the rear window, I saw the overhead door coming back down toward the trunk lid! I slammed on the brake, and the car stopped just in time for the metal handle on the inside of the door (for manually opening) to put two 4 inch scrapes down to bare metal on the posterior of the trunk lid. Then the door automatically reversed itself, adding to the depth of the scrapes, no doubt. When trying to reconstruct what just happened, I recalled that on a few previous bitter mornings, the door mechanism had started up, but the wheel bearing grease must have been so stiff, that it triggered the reversing mechanism, and the door came back down!

Well, the lesson here is pretty clear. Don't back out unless the door is open and stationary! But the next lesson I learned was not as obvious. I called our insurance company to start the claim process, and in detail reported exactly what had occurred. The claims representative on the other end of the call promptly told me that it was good I explained that I had stopped the car before the door hit the car. She said that made the claim against my comprehensive coverage, with a \$50 deductible, rather than collision with the \$500 deductible! That lesson was not as obvious, but I learned to do a little studying of the policy small print before placing any claims in the future. The repair cost \$1700, in large part because the car is silver and matching 14 year old silver paint is too difficult, so the trunk and the right rear quarter had to be painted and blended.

Maybe the real take home here is to stay at home when it's that cold out!



When winds are blowing and snow is snowing it is always nice to meet with fellow **HUDMO** members for warm conversation, and, what else, a nice meal. This year two get-togethers were held, one in Albany March 12th at Hiro's Japanese Steakhouse organized by Sandra Griffin and one in Poughkeepsie at The Shadows on the Hudson, March 18th organized by Werner Steigler.



Mary and Werner Steigler. Organizer in the South

**CABIN
FEVER
PARTIES**



Oscar and Barbara Hollenbeck



HUDMO HIGHLIGHTS AUTOMOTIVE AND CAREER INSTRUCTORS

Chuck, a student and George outside the **Glenmont Job Corps Auto Bays** admiring Chuck's "ride" to the Center.



Lynn's literacy classroom and a few of her students. (R)

George, Chuck and Vincent in the auto classroom. (L)



Board member and current section treasurer George van der Wouden and his wife Lynn have been very active club members for over 12 years. Not only have they contributed to club activities, but they also instruct youth in literacy and maintenance and repair of different types of vehicles at the Glenmont Job Corps in Glenmont, New York. Glenmont Job Corps provides a no cost academic career and technical education to students ages 16 to 24. The Center is overseen by the US Department of Labor. Currently there are 266 students on Center and 95% of them stay in male and female dorms on site.

George, a NYS Licensed Automotive Instructor, has been teaching at Glenmont for the past six years with co-Instructor Vincent DeSalvatore. Together they provide a collaborative approach of hands-on instruction to approximately 40 students (5 females) in light vehicle maintenance. George's automotive classroom consists of a four bay shop, an instructional area with computers, office space and a separate meeting room for small group instruction. On this day students were busy systematically checking over the electrical and mechanical components of a 1990 300D Mercedes Benz two diesel turbo that was up on one of the lifts while instructors explained different aspects of each component. Also in the shop was a 1989 Chevy K1500 truck undergoing repairs to its suspension. Besides hands-on proficiency, students are also expected to complete a series of auto-related progression exams called AC Delco and CDX Light Vehicle Maintenance. Students must complete an online assessment after each chapter. George provides incentive for each student who successfully completes the program by buying them their own personal pizza. He also provides students with opportunities

to meet professionals, network, be exposed to real career situations and meet companies looking to hire qualified candidates. They are encouraged to further their knowledge by going on to advanced training at other national Job Corp sites or other accredited programs (NATEF) to be eligible for jobs in heavy equipment manufacturers such as Detroit Diesel or Toyota Corporation. George always brings a select group of their students to Keeler's sponsored Tech Session for them to experience a real, contemporary service center.

Lynn has been a Reading II instructor at the Glenmont Job Corps for the last two years. She helps students improve their literacy ability or pass their GED, now called TASK, if necessary. Students also have to meet specific reading requirements to be eligible to enroll in various trades because technical reading is embedded in each career path. Without the skills Lynn teaches, students would be at a disadvantage for career advancement.

Job Corps, a government program, offers job placement assistance, residential housing, food service, health and dental care, and a clothing allowance in addition to the educational programs for underprivileged youth.

By example, Lynn and George help these youths make a positive contribution to society. Perhaps one or more of these students will skillfully work on your Benz in the near future.



Chuck interviews a Job Corps student. (L)

Vincent DeSalvatore, Chuck Frigon, a student, and George Van der Wouden in the classroom.



Board Member Chuck Frigon went to the Glenmont Job Corps to interview George and Lynn. The article was contributed by George and Lynn Van der Wouden and Chuck Frigon.

New HUDMO Members Jennifer and James Prazak admiring a new 2017 Mercedes C class at the Keeler Tech Session and displaying their beautiful Mercedes 560 SL in Keeler's parking lot.



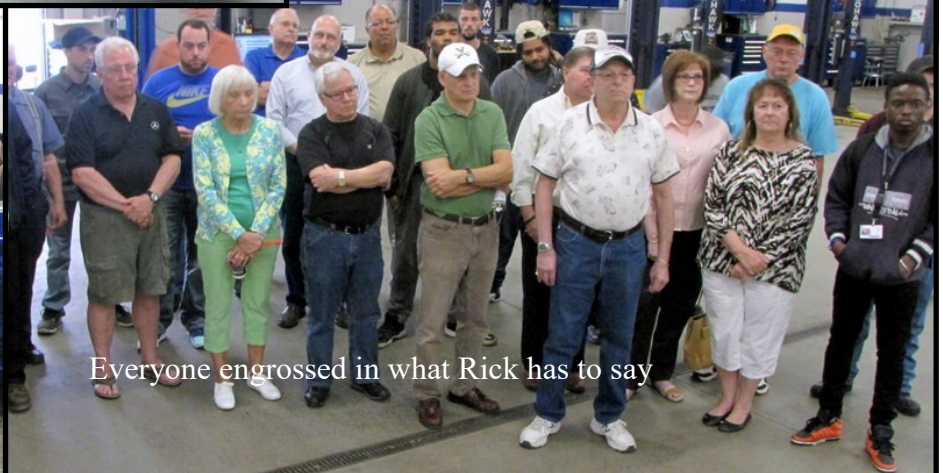
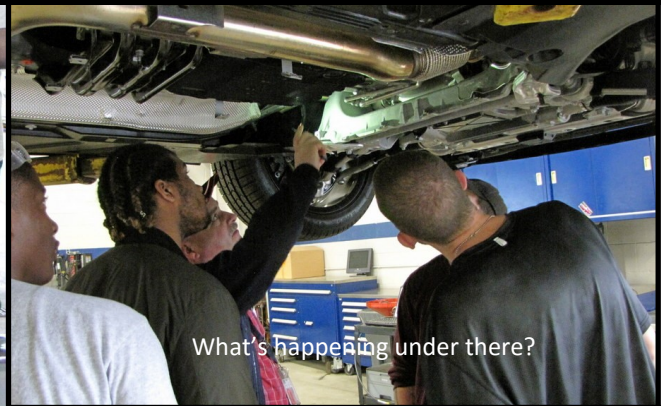


Lisa and Richard Stanton,
guests of President Jim Wright

After a tasty dinner at Apertivo, HUDMO members walked next door to Proctor's Theater to enjoy Carol King's play **BEAUTIFUL** on April 14th. There was lots of music and lots of amazement at all the familiar songs King had written.

ANNUAL KEELER TECH SESSION WAS WELL ATTENDED

Saturday, April 29th, was the annual Tech Session sponsored by Keeler Motor Car Company and well planned by Shop Steward Rick Walker and Master Technicians Jay Hale, Rod Priddle and Zach Keenan. Keeler provided a bountiful breakfast from fruit to donuts to bagels and juice. They also provided some very nice raffle prizes drawn at the end of the session. Steve, the Dent Doctor, showed everyone the techniques of paint-less dent repair. If possible, it is advisable to try to remove dents without having to repaint areas because the quality of the original paint is so much better than touch ups or new body paint. Rick held a question and answer session so that all members had a chance to get information they needed for individual circumstances. For example, what do you normally do to prepare your car for winter storage? There was a brand new C class Mercedes and an original C class in the service center, and Rick talked about the differences in technology advancement for both the driver and the technician between the two cars. Car maintenance and body prep were just a few of the topics covered, and everyone got a chance to get a good look at the updated technology used in the service center and the cost of each piece of equipment used. No wonder Keeler has to charge so much for service! Check out the pictures from the show on the next page. Thank you, Keeler, for a really interesting morning.



Honoring our Veterans and Armed Service Members Memorial Day

According to Jim Down of the *Huffington Post*, On May 1, 1865, freed slaves gathered in Charleston, South Carolina to commemorate the death of Union soldiers and the end of the American Civil War. Three years later, General John Logan issued a special order that May 30, 1868, be observed as Decoration Day, the first Memorial Day. In 1971 Decoration Day became Memorial Day, a [federal holiday](#), for remembering the people who died while serving in the [country's armed forces](#). It was moved from its tradition of May 30th to the last Monday of May.

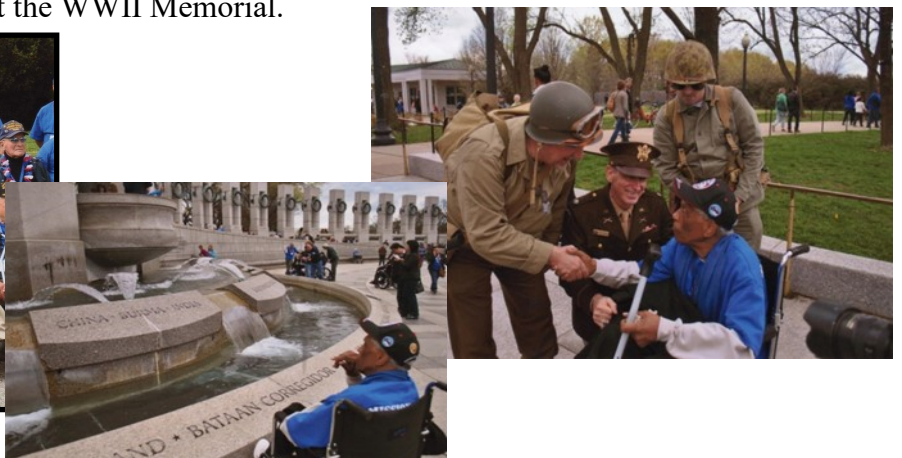
At the April 2016, Cabin Fever, members of HUDMO signed cards of well wishes to be given to veterans who would participate in the Hudson Valley Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C.



Members Glenn and Barbara Lawson's "Uncle Ted" was a participant on the flight.



Veterans and volunteer members of the Hudson Valley Honor Flight pose for a group picture. Veterans, dressed in their uniforms, greeted Ted at the WWII Memorial.



Ted, 92, reminisces about his service as a Tuskegee Airman and fellow soldiers of WWII.

Ted passed away this April. The club sends condolences to the Lawson Family. If you would like more info on the Hudson Valley Honor Flight Organization visit www.HVHonorFlight.com.

HUMO COMING EVENTS FOR 2017

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HUDMO Board Members have been working very hard to plan activities for you to enjoy. We know there are just so many weekends in the summer and people in the great Northeast try to cram many activities into our small “window of warmth,” but try to make at least few of our activities. We know you will enjoy them, and we would love to meet all our members. Check us out!

Board Meetings are the **third Thursday of the month** at the Marriott in Albany at 6:30 unless otherwise noted. The June meeting will be held downstate so members to our south can be represented. Time and place will be announced *via* email.

BREAKFAST AT SARATOGA RACE TRACK—Wednesday, **August 9th**. Time and details TBA.

FAMILY PICNIC and CAR MEET—Sunday, **September 10th**, Thatcher Park. Time and details TBA.

CAR RALLY and FALL WEEKEND—**October 7th and 8th**. Details TBA

“FINDING NEVERLAND” at PROCTOR’S —Wednesday, **December 6th**. Details will follow.

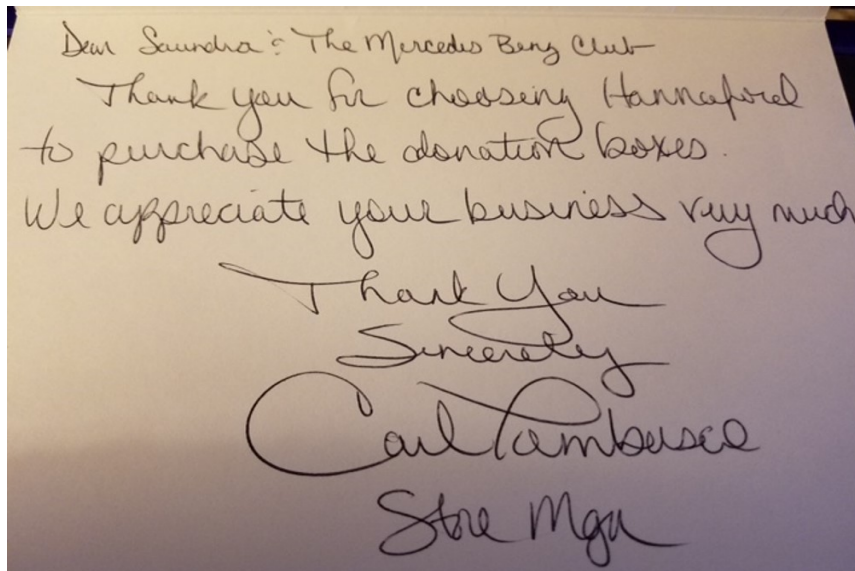
HOLIDAY PARTY at the Marriott—Saturday, **December 9th**. Details to follow.

There are other events in the planning stages and the dates are not yet set. They include:

Mercedes Benz Car Show

Lead Foot Lucy Car Cruise at Kohl’s Plaza, Colonie Wednesday at 6:00 on an announced sunny evening. Announcement will go out *via* email on Monday of that week, weather dependent.

In our last newsletter we told you of our Giving Back program when **HUDMO** donated 25 of Hannaford’s \$10 Giving Boxes filled with food staples given to local charities and food banks to feed the hungry during the holiday season. The 25 boxes we purchased were donated to the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) food pantry. We received a very nice thank you note from the manager of the Niskayuna Hannaford. The club also contributed to Albany Community’s Action Program, Dress for Success, a charitable organization which provides support to low income women entering or returning to the work force by providing interviewing workshops, vocational skills, and professional attire. New and gently used purses were donated along with a cash donation. Thank you to all members who participated.



Dear Sandra: The Mercedes Benz Club
Thank you for choosing Hannaford
to purchase the donation boxes.
We appreciate your business very much
Thank You
Sincerely
Carl Ambrose
Store Mgr

The GLC300 4MATIC Coupe

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



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