



HUDSON-MOHAWK SECTION

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

2020 WINTER EDITION

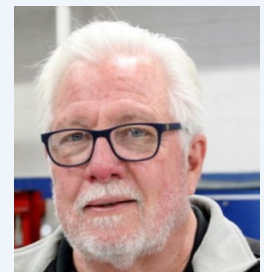
As you read our **MBCA** Newsletter this month most of you may still be sequestered, getting irritated, and hopefully looking forward to a COVID-19 free summer filled with car shows, long rides in your Benz, rallies, and friendly gatherings with car enthusiasts. Let's hope we will overcome the war with the invisible virus and return to our usual summer lives by June or sooner. If not, at least a nice, long, solitary drive in your Mercedes is still keeping you within the parameters of the lockdown, so get that car out of winter storage and open the windows and ride, ride, ride.....

The Board has planned activities for our summer enjoyment, but due to the uncertainty of our coronavirus timeline, the Save the Date listing in your newsletter is **tentative only**. You will be apprised of the actual dates by email or Evite as soon as the social distancing edict is lifted.

The article below is very fitting in light of our Stay-at-Home mandate since one of the main activities we are able to do besides cleaning house, playing video games, home schooling our children, nervous snacking and catching up on our reading and phone calls is to watch television. Below are some good car shows to watch.

Vickie Parker, newsletter editor

My Favorite TV Car Shows



By Chuck Frigon

If you are reading this article in the Hudson Mohawk Mercedes Benz newsletter then it's a good bet you have a real appreciation for all types of motor cars. If you are like me, you love to look at them, drive them and dream of owning them.

I was brought up in the age of the real American muscle cars (60's & 70's) and I couldn't learn enough about them. My first love was a 1964 Pontiac GTO. During my teenage years I couldn't wait for *Car & Driver*, *Motor Trend*, and *Road & Track* magazines to hit the newsstands. I would read them from the front to the back drooling over the pictures of Mustangs, Camaros, Corvettes, T-Birds, Road Runners, Barracudas, and yes, Javelins. I devoured all the specs for each car and lingered over the articles written about them. I especially enjoyed reading the many articles written by such journalists as Brock Yates, Patrick Deardard and Tom McCahill who discussed what it was like to drive and experience the many different car makes and models. **(Continued on page 3)**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM WRIGHT, PRESIDENT HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION



Wash your hands. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask. Don't go out unless it is absolutely necessary. If you do, stay six feet away from everyone. These are just a few of the recommended things that you must do to protect yourself, your family and strangers from getting the CORONA VIRUS, COVID-19.

PLEASE DO THEM! MANY OF US ARE PRIME CANDIDATES TO BE ATTACKED BY. COVID-19. BE WISE. BE CAREFUL. BE SAFE!

IF YOU NEED A FUN OR TECHNICAL CONVERSATION, OR YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE, WRITE ME! I CAN EVEN ARRANGE PHONE OR VIDEO CONFERENCES WITH OTHER MEMBERS.

Basically, we are all under house arrest and we don't know when it is going to end. We all want to be safe, but this pandemic came at a most inconvenient time, the beginning of driving season.

We can still drive, but we have to drive alone. A major bonus of spring driving is we get to visit and hangout with our club friends who have taken their pampered vehicles out of hibernation too.

This season is going to start very, very late and our plans and schedules must be adjusted to get the most out of the abbreviated season. HUDMO's calendar is being modified and can't be completed until more information is available.

I want all club members to send me ideas on how we can best use the time we will have to reach out to each other and have the most satisfying and rewarding experiences.

BE PATIENT. BE WISE. BE SAFE!!

JIM



Board Member

Herb (Noel) Sodher, a dedicated car enthusiast and own-

er, was on the front page of the Wednesday, March 18th Times Union newspaper. The article was not a happy one. His wife Cynthia is an Alzheimer's patient in Hospice in Saratoga Springs, and because of the new rules that limit visits to a patient only if they are close to death, he is unable to visit her. The rules are understandable in light of the coronavirus pandemic, but are nonetheless another example of how difficult our world has gotten within a few months. Herb has been married over fifty decades, as the article states and describes his frustration at not being able to visit her. HUDMO's good wishes go out to him.

MY FAVORITE TV CAR SHOWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It wasn't until my college days when my good friend's father introduced me to a BMW 2002. From that day on I couldn't get enough information about BMWs, Porsches, Mercedes, Lamborghinis, Ferraris, and Jaguars along with every other make of European and Japanese sports cars.

Well, with the introduction of the Internet, I'm now able to complement the information I get from these car magazines with the car shows on TV. These shows are full of great information, comparing one model to another. You also get to see them performing on the many race tracks and roadways around the world. I could only imagine what it would be like to drive a Mercedes 300SL Roadster or a Porsche 356 Speedster through the backroads of the Adirondacks on a crisp fall afternoon.

If you haven't already had the opportunity to enjoy some of these shows on your cable network, I would like to share some of my favorites. From my part of town I follow them on Discovery's Velocity Channel, Spectrum 403. They are shown at various times of the day so you will need to check your local listing schedule.

My personal favorite is 'Top Gear.' It is a British motoring magazine, a factual television series which broadcasts around the world. It mainly focuses on the review of cars through motoring based challenges, special races, and timed laps of notable cars. It is presented in a more quirky, humorous and sometimes controversial style of presentation. It is hosted by three British individuals who compete against each other in various race formats and vehicles, much to the entertainment of its viewers.

My second favorite is 'Chasing Classic Cars,' a documentary series presented by Wayne Carini of F-40 Motorsports, located in Portland, Connecticut. You get to follow Wayne as he searches for classic cars from all eras, looking to find and getting these cars running with the option of restoration and a likely sale. The series focusses on the restoration and auction process, but not all are a financial success. Many of his finds are barn finds which can lead Wayne to some interesting locations.

I also enjoy watching 'Bitchin Rides.' This show stars Dave Kindig, a self-taught artist who designs and builds some of the wildest vehicles you will ever see in Salt Lake City. He and his crew build cars that will be in style 30 or 40 years from now. He has over 30 employees that perform their work while ignoring the cameras filming them having fun. There's no pretending or scripts being followed and their interplay is all real. Their projects run into six figures and customers need to wait as much as four years to get their cars into his shop. The show airs in more than 40 countries making Dave a familiar face around the globe.

Who hasn't heard of 'Over Haulin' hosted by automobile designer Chip Foose and co-host Chris Jacobs. The show's premise is an unknowing victim, known as the 'Mark', is nominated to be "Overhauled" by his or her family or friend, known as the insiders. The 'Mark's' car, usually an old tired antique, is obtained through some ruse. Usually the 'Mark' is told that their car has been stolen, misplaced, or lost at a repair shop. Tricks are played on the 'Mark' to keep him/her confused while Chip and his team of mechanics have a week to remake the car into a custom masterpiece. The show ends with the 'Mark' being reunited with his/her newly made-over car.

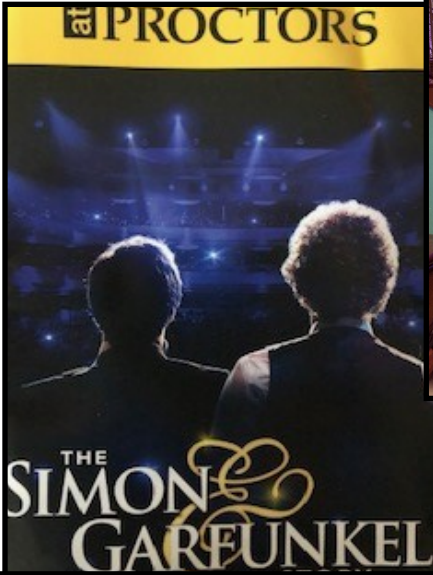
If you haven't had enough by now you can always tune in to 'Wheeler Dealers.' This is a British television series originally produced for the Discovery Channel in the UK and Motor Trend in the US. The show is hosted by car enthusiast Mike Brewer and mechanic Ant Anstead. These two have a mission to save old and repairable vehicles. They repair or otherwise improve a particular make and model while staying within their budget then selling it to a new owner. The challenge is making these repairs while keeping their budget. With this in mind you will see how creative they really can be.

To all the car enthusiasts, I hope viewing these shows will provide you with additional stats about your favorite cars while being entertained. Enjoy!



THE SIMON AND GARFINKLE STORY At PROCTOR'S

On January 10th HUDMO members met to hear the “Sounds of Silence” at Proctor’s after first having a delightful dinner at Mexican Radio in Schenectady. The food was good and the company excellent. We then walked to Proctor’s to enjoy an outstanding musical and personal history of two song icons. The entertainers sounded just like the real singers, and a wide screen behind them reflected the historic influence that each song represented. Good stuff.



Mexican Radio restaurant



Proctor's



CABIN FEVER PARTY

Sunday February 23rd

Although we have had a relatively mild winter, it's always nice to enjoy a get-together with HUDMO friends, old and new. Hana's is a fun Pan -Asian Restaurant that features hibachi cooking right at your table. We had a large gathering organized by Sandra Griffin who also gave out door prizes and included decorations for St Patrick's Day. The fancy food cooking techniques and meal were both fun and tasty.





Taking Your MB out of Winter Storage

By George Moses



While these tips primarily pertain to those owners of older MB's, it's worth a read by all that have stored their car for the winter

Check under the hood and inspect underneath

Before you turn the key, take a good look around. Get a flashlight for a detailed look under the hood and get on the floor to inspect underneath the car from stem to stern. Look for any signs of fluid leaks. Look at the floor where the car was stored and hopefully you'll see no fluid puddles.

Check hoses for signs of cracks, bulges or soft spots and loose fittings. Squeezing them may expose a looming issue. Check all fluid levels (except auto-transmission since you need the engine running.) Check your brake lines and hoses underneath too.

Look at wiring for insulation cracks and corroded or loose terminals. Wires at their terminals may have corroded to an extent that only a strand or two remain to carry current and might fail during the driving season. Also, check vacuum tubing for cracks and more so, at the "rubber" connectors that are prone to dry out with heat and age. Flex these connectors looking for failure points. Replace if in doubt.

Check the air filter. Blow it clean with an air gun at an angle to avoid damaging opposite normal air flow or to replace if it looks very dirty or ratty.

In summary, look hard for any signs where turning the key might be a bad idea and look for possible failure points during this summer's driving season.

Inspect the tires

Check tires for wear, cracks, oxidation, bulges or anything that could lead to failure. If you notice uneven wear now, getting an alignment should give you a summer's worth of straight-and-narrow driving. Correct air pressure and don't forget the spare,

Check the Battery

If you left the battery in the car with a trickle charger, it should be ready to go. If you took it inside or left it without a trickle charger, check the voltage. If it's below 12 volts, give it a charge.

Inspect the battery terminals and clean off any deposits (or reinstall the battery if you've kept it inside). Don't forget a swipe of di-electric grease on the lugs before connecting (Regular grease, even Vaseline is better than nothing.)

Check the braking system

Before you go anywhere, press the brake pedal. Brake normally and feel for too-easy pedal travel and whether the pedal returns to rest normally. Then press firmly to be sure you bottom out on fluid pressure before full pedal travel. Be sure you have a solid system.

Test the emergency brake The pedal or pull arm should start to feel resistance after about 4-5 clicks and once fully applied should spring back after release to normal driving position with all warning lights off

Note: Brake fluid will absorb water over time. A fluid change may be in order. This maintenance item is so often overlooked and causes failure of master cylinders, calipers or slave cylinders Depending on how long the car has been stored or the last time the brake fluid was changed, you may be due for a change.

Starting after winter storage

Once you've checked all the fluids, hoses, filters and tires, if all is OK, you can think about cranking her over. It's advised to push the back end of the car out of the garage. Using a fan to keep the exhaust from accumulating in the garage is also a good safety tip. (continued on next page)

(continued from page 6)

Open the hood so after starting and at idle you can immediately have a look that all's well with no strange noises emanating for the engine compartment.

Most MB are fuel injected so turn the key to on for a few seconds but hold off on cranking. The idea is to allow the electric fuel pump spin up and prime the fuel system up to the injection pump or to the injectors themselves depending on the system. Repeat 1 more time then go to crank/start. She should start right off, but don't crank for more than 10 seconds giving the starter a 2 min. cool down rest. (Try again after cool down, but something else is probably going on beyond the scope of this article)

If yours is an older carbureted model with a mechanical fuel pump, you may have to give a few cranking iterations, but before 1st crank a short shot of starting fluid directly into the carb will likely speed things along.

Once the engine is running, do not rev the engine unless a quick blip is needed to keep her running. Let the engine warm up a little before revving and don't hold at high revs or over rev once until it is a little warm. While it's running smooth, look & listen under the hood for strange noises, fluid leaks & check underneath for exhaust noise. Check the tail pipe for smoke – black, blue or white smoke. Look for anything out of the ordinary.

When warmed up a little check your auto-trans fluid level. It may read a low since it's not fully warmed up, but be sure you're at least within the low mark before taking off. Be careful, do not overfill.

Go for a 30-minute drive

If everything feels good and looks good, ease your way into driving it. Find non-congested streets and drive slowly, checking steering feel and braking before heading to faster streets or highways. Safely, leave go of the wheel and brake to make sure you track straight to assure yourself all 4 wheel's brake calipers/slaves are working evenly. With ABS, try a hard brake on a gravel road. The system should pulsate on slipping wheels and no trouble lights should lock in.

Drive it for at least 30-minutes and then stop at your favorite spot for an oil change if you haven't already changed the oil prior to laying up last fall. It's best to drive it a bit before changing the oil as this allows the oil to splash through the engine and loosen any deposits, which will come off mostly in the first half-hour. It's better to dump these deposits out with the oil you have to change anyway than change the oil too early and have them floating around for the next 3-6 k miles..

Clean it up

Finally, wash off any dust that accumulated and give it another good waxing, the kind that leaves your arms tired and your car gleaming. Any other kind of waxing isn't worth the trouble or the money.

Summary

Taking the time to get your car back on the road gives you the best chance at protecting yourself, your car and others on the road. Safety and trouble free driving for the season plus longevity for your car should trump your impatience to get back on the road.

BARBARA LAWSON BRIGHT STAR VOLUNTEER



Barbara Lawson, a long time, very active **HUDMO** member has graciously volunteered to make sure members who are ill or have family loss or exciting good news are recognized. She will send cards where needed and alert members of individual situations, happy or sad., Please contact Barbara at (845) 561-9258 or cclancybc@aol.com if you have member news to share.

3rd ANNUAL CATSKILL CONQUEST RALLY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

It was a beautiful, top down, late summer morning when 20 entries met at the Hinchy Visitor Center for a kick-off meeting and brunch. This center is on Route 29 in Ulster County just west of Kingston NY. We were to follow about 75 miles of a route originally driven in 1903 by 17 different makes of autos driven and navigated by 125 brave souls including 1 woman. The entire route went from New York City to Pittsburgh!. Bad roads, washed out bridges, what a Trip!

Fast forward to 2019—Sunny, great roads, more reliable cars. Four cars from HUDMO attended: Bill and Evelyn Dufur, Brenda Wright and Melissa Watts, Brett and Deborah Kropf, and Rick Olivo and guest. There were many scenic stops on route including a car corral at a Cauliflower Festival! Worth the trip. We went last year and had quite a time and decided to repeat. I'll keep you posted if there's a 4th Annual.

By Bill Dufur, Board Member



HUDMO TENTATIVE ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Obviously, everyone's schedules have been interrupted this year with COVID-19. Therefore, it is impossible to predict when our social distancing will be lifted and our sheltering at home will be cancelled. As soon as that happens the Board will be able to place definite dates on our events. However, **we have planned activities for the summer**, some with dates, others with general thoughts of dates that we will make more definite as we see what rolls out.

Keeler Tech Show will be scheduled in mid-May, if possible.

Dinner at the Albany Yacht Club is scheduled for Friday, June 19th. Address is 75 Broadway, Rensselaer NY 12144. Cost is \$ 12.50 per person. Menu is to be determined by the club that week.

Lead Foot Lucy Car Show 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Kohl's Plaza, Central Avenue, Colonie 12205 will be scheduled for a warm Wednesday in July. If the weather is promising, you will receive an email on the Monday of the week selected. Cost is free. Look for the HUDMO banner to find our club. There are usually 100 to 200 cars of all makes and models.

Family Picnic and Car Show will be held. Details to follow.

Ladies of Mercedes will have an event. Details to follow.

Suggestions for other activities?? Tell us what you want.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT



SAUNDRA GRIFFIN

Greetings to all our members. Hoping this edition finds you well and staying safe.

The idea of a membership directory is a tool that the Board has considered, and with the current events it seems like the most appropriate time to create.

The Membership Directory will only be accessible to members who choose to complete the attached form. It will be in an electronic format. It will allow members to keep in touch with others or create new relations.

Instructions:

Print and complete the form on the next page. Scan or take a picture (with your cell) of the signed form and email it to:

griffin_16810@msn.com, or mail to **Sandra Griffin, 1045 Palmer Avenue, Niskayuna, N Y 12309**

**Hudson Mohawk Section
of Mercedes Benz Club of America
Directory Publication Release Form**

Member

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____, State _____, zip _____

Email _____@_____

Model _____ Year _____ Model _____ Year _____

Phone Home _____ Cell Home _____

Work _____

Birthday

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Associate Member

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____@_____

Phone Home _____ Cell Home _____

Work _____

Birthday

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Car Model _____ Year _____

Hobbies and Interests

"Use of this directory is restricted to non-commercial purposes that are consistent with the purposes of the Club." If the directory is available online it must be restricted to a members-only section and be downloadable only in locked form that cannot be modified after download. This does not prohibit the use of NBO membership lists for official Club business.

I give permission for the information provided to be used in the Hudson Mohawk Section Member Directory. The information will not be used for commercial, solicitation or profit.

Signature _____ **Date** _____ **Hudson Mohawk Section**

**of Mercedes Benz Club of America
Directory Publication Release Form**

Member

First Name _____ Last Name _____

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