

Northeastern
Pennsylvania Section

Mercedes-Benz
Club of America

MBCA-NEPA.COM



Shining Star Fall 2016 Newsletter



President's Message

We had a busy summer for the NEPA section with many events that enabled members to show their Mercedes-Benz and be with fellow members.

I encouraged Ron Gabel, our Rally Master to put together a Road Rally that is coming up this Saturday Sept 10th. They are a lot of fun and I encourage you and a co-pilot to join the fun.

Next month come out for a Day Drive October 23rd to the Pocono Mountains. Hopefully the trees will be colorful to enhance the beautiful scenery.

November 10th come out and enjoy a free dinner with fellow members at our section's Election and Planning meeting.

Some information about these events are in this newsletter and an eBlast with details will be sent before the October & November events.

How did you hear about the Mercedes Benz Club of America? Most people join the club because someone invited them to join. If you know someone with a Mercedes Benz, ask them to join online at MBCA-NEPA.com, give them the postcard from your Star magazine, or give them a brochure (available from an officer/director at an event). Be sure to include your name and member number when they join and you receive a free month's membership credit!

Wear your name badges to all events. If you need one contact me.

I look forward to seeing you.
Happy motoring,



News:

Pennsylvania license plates with the Mercedes-Benz Club of America organization on them are available. These organizational plates are only available to MBCA members in good standing who reside in PA.



nepa.mbca.org/pa-license-plate

MBCA-NEPA Member of the Year



Congratulations to Jolanta Piekarsk

i for her 2015 **Member of the Year** award. She received a plaque (supplied by the national office of MBCA) at the August 10th 2016 NEPA board meeting. Jolanta is a NEPA founding member and has been our treasurer since our section was formed. She is a dedicated member of our Mercedes Club section and in 2015: organized the Spring Dinner, got most of the food together for our annual picnic (including cooking on the grill), hosted the Shrimp Boil event at Shore Point Marina in Tom's River, NJ, hosted board meetings at her home, and contributed to keeping our club financially sound. Thank you & congratulations, Jolanta!

Welcome to our new Newsletter Editor:

We are thankful that Alice Christensen has volunteered to be our Newsletter Editor, and the board has approved her for this position. Those who attended our NEPA picnic this year will remember her, we met at her & Otto's property and she was a great hostess. Thank you Alice for your commitment. We will have an article on her in the Winter issue.



Coming up Fast!!!!

2016 FALL FROLIC RALLY

By Ronald G. Gabel

Our MBCA NEPA Fall Frolic Rally is **Saturday September 10, 2016**. The rally will begin with breakfast on your own at The Starlite Diner on Route 100 (233 PA Route 100, Allentown PA. - just South of Route 78) at 8:30-10:00 AM. A rally is a form of friendly competition in which participating cars leave a starting point individually, and are directed to follow a prescribed route to a finish point at which point all competitors "rally".

THIS IS IN NO WAY A RACE. In a race the idea is to get to the finish line in the shortest possible time. In this contest the aim is to follow a predetermined route, and to correctly answer questions along the way. Going too fast will hurt your chances of winning. The answers to all questions can be found along the route for those lucky enough to locate them (sort of a treasure hunt). Time allowed for completion of the rally will be more than sufficient to complete the task. This contest is simply a test of your ability to follow precise directions.

Our rally will cover approximately fifty miles. Directions will be simple, so no previous experience will be necessary. The rally will basically be a drive through the country, over scenic back roads while searching for answers to a number of sometimes cryptic or challenging questions. Answers to all questions can be found along the way. You will drive slowly looking for answers to questions. Since you will be scored on driving the "exact" route and distance, backtracking to locate missed answers will count against you, as will missing the answer. Bring your camera you will have plenty of time for pictures.

Obviously, this is NOT a one-man job. We require two or more persons to a car. Family members and friends are welcome to participate in your car or theirs..... each car will require a driver and one or more to "navigate". All you really need to participate is a pencil, a car, a love for driving, a roadmap or GPS in case you get lost, and the desire to have a good time.

General Instructions will be given to each designated navigator the morning of the rally. These "Generals" will explain how to correctly follow the route and the "Rules of the Road". Your rally master will go over the instructions in detail and will answer all questions at the drivers meeting prior to the start of the rally during breakfast.

The first car will start at about 10:00 AM. The Route Instructions, your directions from the start to finish of the rally, will be given to each driver one-minute prior to his start time. One of the cardinal rally rules is "NEVER ASSUME ANYTHING", read your Generals carefully.

Hope you will all plan ahead to join us Saturday September 10th for good food, good fun and good fellowship. Complementary light Refreshments and toilet facilities will be available at the half-way point of the rally. Sodas and pizza will be available on the club at the end of the rally with other food available at your own expense. Plan to come early and have breakfast prior to the 10:00 AM starting time. JOIN IN THE FUN! PLAN NOT TO MISS THIS ONE! THE MORE PARTICIPANTS, THE MORE THE FUN! BRING THE FAMILY! NOT NECESSARY TO BRING YOUR MERCEDES CAR!



[Meet our New Members](#)

Ronald Bair of Wyomissing PA (1992 300SL)
James Kim of Sinking Spring, PA (none listed yet)
Tom Lindeman of Whitehall, PA (2013 C300 4matic)
John Melchior of Milford, PA (2012 S550)
Richard Scalzo, Jr. of Alburtis, PA. (2016 C300)
Frank Schuler of Bethlehem, PA (2015 E320 4matic)



Previous Events:

June Jamboree Recap:

On pages 72 to 75 in the September-October issue of "The Star" is a nice article with pictures on this event. Note: NEPA member Roger Egolf's first place, and our regional director Joe Grattan's first place.

1st Gear by Robert Taylor

This picture was taken at the Deutsche Classic show in Oley, PA in July. I am in the 1957 VW bus and we have just finished judging it. It was really neat and clean. All the boys in the bus are youth judges. I helped to get some boys who were at the show to be judges too as we did not have enough boys to start with. We go to different events and our jobs are to look at cars being shown and say how good we think they are. We are just learning how to do the job right are very proud that we have been picked to be judges and hope to get better and do a good job. I have been going to Mercedes shows since I was a little kid. My dad is President of the Keystone Chapter of Mercedes Clubs in Pennsylvania and he and my Mom autocross all the time with different Clubs.



Hagerty Youth Judging Awards from Deutsche Classic:

1st Place: 1962 Porsche 356B

2nd Place: 1994 BMW M5 Wagon - one of 3 in the US

3rd Place: 1969 Mercedes-Benz 280SL



In August I went to the Poconos for vacation and also to go to the Indy car race at the Pocono Raceway-the "Tricky Triangle". We also went to the track on qualifying Saturday. My dad got us pit passes so we could go in the back to meet the drivers and see their cars up close. I was really lucky. I was thrilled to meet my favorite driver of the Verizon car Will Power. You can see he was very nice and friendly. I am going to get our picture made bigger to keep. This was a day I won't forget for a long time. I am really glad my dad did this for me. And two days later Will Power won the 500 mile race!

I will be at the Radnor Hunt show on September 11 to judge more cars with the Hagerty youth judges.

July 8 Summer Picnic



July 16 Summer Picnic We want to thank the host Otto and Alice Christensen for our wonderful picnic. We had close to 20 members showing up and had a great time. There was plenty of food and arrangement of desserts, and we had it in Otto's garage which held plenty of his cars and we had ample room for the picnic. Wesley won the clean car prize. His engine was nice and clean as everything else was for his vehicle. The weather cooperated with us on this beautiful day. Thank you all for coming to the picnic.



Starfest 2016 Recap



Aaron & Helen Newman's 1984 300D



Mike and Nancy Ziegler with newer Gullwing

This year Starfest, was held August 3rd to 6th at Mohegan Sun Resort Hotel and Casino, located along the Thames River in Uncasville, CT. This was MBCA's premier event, with hundreds of MB enthusiast club members from across the U.S. and Canada. I, along with a few other NEPA members, attended this event. The Mohegan Sun Resort is a magnificent hotel. Race enthusiasts were able to enjoy the track events. The car show had a variety of old and newer cars on display, including NEPA member Aaron & Helen Newman's 1984 300D. Mike Ziegler



AWKSCHT FESCHT



The weather was perfect for an enjoyable day checking out the cars on display at Das Awkscht Fescht at Macungie Memorial Park on Sunday, August 7th. Six Mercedes-Benz cars, including the Richard Smith's 1981 380SL were among the hundreds of classic and antique automobiles on display at the show. Smith, a founding member of our section, has attended every Das Awkscht Fescht since the first one in 1964. Other cars displayed included two 560SLs, a newly restored 1967 230SL, and two W123 cars, a 280E and a 240D. Plan on attending this event next year, the club will definitely be back!



Richard Smith's 1981 380SL

60th New Hope Auto Show, Recap:



August 14th, I counted 15 Mercedes Benz cars that participated in the MB class at the New Hope Auto Show. It was a hot day. The weather report the day before predicted rain for the event, but the rain stayed away. The picture shows 3 MB cars: the 1st place MB class winner, 1956 blue 190SL owned by Claire Wegner, whose father bought the car new (see the great article by Claire on page 80 in the September-October issue of "The Star"); the 2nd place MB class winner, 1968 red 250SL with Ross Wilson standing behind his car; and 1967 230SL with NEPA member Barry Brobst standing behind his car.

Proceeds from this event went to New Hope-Solebury Community Association and Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Picture taken & article written by Mike Ziegler

AUGUST POCONO INDY RACE CAR SHOW



Ron Gabel and his black SL320



The display of antique race cars

Members of our Northeast Pennsylvania Mercedes Benz car club were afforded an opportunity to participate in a classic car show scheduled to be held prior to the Pocono Raceway Verizon Indy Car race that was scheduled for Sunday August 21st, 2016. Three of our member's automobiles were accepted by the race committee for inclusion in the

show:

Ronald Gabel (1995 SL320), Mike Ziegler (2006 SLK350) and Brett Kropf (2005 E55 AMG) showed up on Sunday and parked in the designated space in the pit area where the public enjoyed inspecting and photographing the displayed cars. Car owners explored the pit area viewing the wonderful assortment of antique classic and antique race cars on display and watching the last minute preparation of the Indy Cars to be raced.

The race was scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM, but a steady rain beginning just prior to the race start drenched the 2.5 mile track. The race was postponed until Monday and rescheduled to go off at 12:00 PM.

A number of our members used their free tickets to return Monday to view the rescheduled race. The 200 lap race was won by Penske team driver Will Powers who benefited by a crash by his teammate and points leader Simon Pagenaud.



Preparing the cars for the race.



The car show



Ziegler's RV

New & Used Sales, Service & Rentals
Motor homes, travel trailers, pop-ups

Route 145, 440 Lehigh St, Allentown PA 18103
www.ZieglersRV.com 610-435-8100



Upcoming Events:

20th Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance this Sunday September 11th

20th Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance this Sunday September 13th, gates open at 9 AM: Cars in the Concours d'Elegance are pre-selected and limited to 100 vehicles. It is a wonderful upscale event with horse drawn carriages parading at the event and also on display.

There is special club parking for Mercedes Benz vehicles in the MotorSport Park area. The \$60 for driver at the door admission to the event also allows you to park with the club (only if you bring an MB). Passengers are \$35 each. Children under 12 admitted free with a paying adult admission. Location: 826 Providence Rd, Malvern PA 19355. For more information go to www.radnorconcours.com 610-644-4430

Election & Planning Meeting for 2017 events, with FREE dinner on Thursday, November 10th

We will have an election of officers and directors this year. We are fortunate that most volunteers are willing to run again: President Mike Ziegler, V.P. Roger Egolf, Secretary Debbie Egolf, Treasurer Jolanta Piekarski, director/Driving Coordinator Barry Brobst, Director/Road Rally Coordinator/Photographer Ron Gabel, and Webmaster Brett Kropf. The following positions still need to be filled: Membership, Ad/Sponsor Coordinator, and Facebook administrator. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, let me know. The board approved a free name badge to each of the above volunteers including their position.

We will also be discussing events for the 2017 calendar year. Bring your ideas and your 2017 calendar so we can pick dates that most of you are available to attend.

In appreciation for your help in planning for the 2017 events, the dinner will be paid by our section for NEPA members & their associate member. A cash bar is available.

MBCA NEPA SECTION

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 15, 2016 STARTING AT 7:00 PM

BLUE GRILLHOUSE

4431 EASTON AVE.

BETHLEHEM, PA. 18020

RSVP by NOVEMBER 1, 2016 to Debbie Egolf at 610-751-7865 or email egolf2000@yahoo.com

Please mark your calendars as this is a definite date. We already have a room reserved for us and we need to know by November 1 if you will be attending.

Please--by November 1, 2016-- RSVP to Debbie Egolf at 610-751-7865 or email me at egolf2000@yahoo.com. This is the deadline date.

The meal cost is \$36 per person. Our Mercedes club will pick up the tax and gratuity. We need payment before the Christmas party. We will send an EBlast with more information as the time gets closer.

Thank you very much. Debbie, Secretary

FREE Tickets to Reading Fightin Phils Playoff Games (they're in 1st place!):

Ziegler's RV will again be sponsoring FREE General Admission Tickets to the Reading Fightin Phils minor league baseball playoff games at FirstEnergy Stadium in Reading PA, to our NEPA section members.

The Playoffs are Friday September 9th at 7:05 PM, Saturday September 10th at 7:05 PM, and

Sunday September 11th at 6:05 PM. If they make it to the Champion Games, they will be Thursday-Saturday September 15th-17th (as needed).

Tickets may be picked up at Ziegler's RV during business hours or at the Stadium "Will Call" window the day of the game (if you let me know in advance 610-504-5370).

Limit of 4 free tickets per member family.

Optional reserved seat and buffet dinner available for a \$10 per person donation and First Pitch for \$20 donation, to our MBCA Northeastern PA Section. Supplies are limited.

Contact: Mike Ziegler at mikez@ZieglersRV.com or 610-504-5370 cell/text. For more info on the games go to www.fightins.com



MBCA-NEPA OCTOBER DAY DRIVE October 23

More information to come. Contact Barry Brobst at bbrobst@ptd.net

As new information becomes available, it will be included on our web site:

MBCA-NEPA.COM/upcoming_events



LIKE us on facebook!

This is your forum to keep in touch and share information.

www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA




Proud to be a sponsor for the Northeast Pa Mercedes-Benz Club. We have been doing business in the Lehigh Valley for over 45 years. Knopf has been consistently rated as one of the top 10 best Mercedes dealerships in Sales and Service Satisfaction Nationally. We provide factory trained technicians, and have the latest service and diagnostic equipment available. See why there is a significant difference when servicing your Mercedes-Benz.

Stop in and see Club Member and Sales and Leasing Specialist Jim Sangiorgio for your next car or SUV. On your first visit Jim will give you your ID card which entitles you to a discount of 20% off parts and service repairs for club members as well as free loaner cars, and lifetime free state inspection when you purchase from Knopf Automotive.

Contact Jim at jsangiorgio@knopfauto.com, or at 610-967-0787.





STAR SERVICE CENTER *inc*
Specializing in the Service of Mercedes Benz Automobiles

As a Mercedes Benz owner, you experience the best automobile in the world to drive.
Now experience the best service for your Mercedes Benz by Star Service Center.

(610) 437-3374 starservicecentermb.com 738 N. Graham St. Allentown



Your MBCA-NEPA Board

Mike Ziegler | President | 610.504.5370 | zieglersv@rcn.com

Roger Egolf | Vice President | rae4@psu.edu

Debbie Egolf | Secretary | egolf2000@yahoo.com

Jolanta Piekarski | Treasurer | jolanta.rentals@verizon.net

Barry Brobst | Driving Events Coordinator | 610.390.1878 | bbrobst@ptd.net

Alice Christensen | Newsletter Editor | achristensen@comcast.net

Ron Gabel | Assistant Newsletter Editor | rggabel@ptd.net

Brett Kropf | Webmaster | brett@kropf.com

Joe Grattan | Regional Director | Mid Atlantic | jjosephgrattan@aol.com



**Submit news, event, and other contributions for MBCA NEPA Shining
Star Newsletter to nepa.mbca@gmail.com**

Questions? Email your Section Officer or contact our National Business Office
at 1.800.637.2360 Or visit www.mbca.org