

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Section**

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

MBCA-NEPA.COM



**Shining Star
Fall 2019 Newsletter**

President's Message

We had some great summer events that you can read about in this newsletter. If you missed them this year, plan on attending next year. Fall usually gives us beautiful days for driving our cars with the top down and/or windows open, without roasting or freezing.

We have a chance to do that on October 5th for our Road Rally Event put on by our Road Rally Master Ron Gabel (see article in this newsletter). Ron would appreciate knowing if you plan on joining us for Road Rally (rggabel@ptd.net).

We didn't get anyone that contacted a board member who was interested in any of the positions up for election. Nominations are still open. We are fortunate that all the officers and directors have agreed to run for another term. On October 10th, we will have our election/planning meeting (with a cocktail & dinner paid for by our NEPA section) to discuss 2020 events and dates for these events (bring your 2020 planner). Come out and share your ideas or let us know if you are interested in hosting an event.

December 19th is our Christmas Party at Melt in Center Valley (see article in this newsletter). It is a great place and a terrific value to our members (our NEPA section is paying approximately \$72/couple toward the meal). We are looking forward to hearing about Bees from Tom Lindeman, our Membership Coordinator.

I look forward to seeing you,
Mike Ziegler

Mike Ziegler



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Upcoming Events

2019 Upcoming Events **(October through end of year)**

Sat Oct 5 NEPA Road Rally (details below)

Sat Oct 10 NEPA Planning & Election Meeting (details below)

Thu Dec 19 NEPA Christmas/Holiday Party (details below)

Fall 2019 Mercedes Club Road Rally **Saturday, October 5, 2019**

Please RSVP Ron Gabel if you will be attending email
- RGGabel@ptd.net

Our popular 2019 Fall Rally is scheduled to be held **Saturday October 5th, 2019**. This rally will again begin with an optional breakfast from **9AM to 10AM** **at the Schnecksville Diner** on Route 309 about twelve miles North of Allentown, at which time your rally master will hand out and explain the rules of the road and general instructions for this rally.

Again, this year our rally will consist of only one leg beginning with breakfast and ending with lunch on your own. This shortened route proved popular with participants last year and will be the format used again in this fall rally.

If you are a member of our club, a sister club or a potential club member who would like to try your hand in one of our club rallies, we suggest you give it a try. All models of Mercedes cars, any year, any type are welcome and encouraged to participate. If for some reason your Mercedes is unavailable, you can use another car. There is **no previous experience necessary** and virtually all who have attended our rallies in the past have universally enjoyed the experience.

Our rally is in no way a race, take all the time you need to complete the task. The rally is simply a contest in which you follow a predetermined route while

searching for answers to questions whose answers can be found along the way. Our hope is no one will answer all the questions correctly, after all someone must win the rally.

We require at least two people in each car, a driver and a navigator, however **additional people are welcome** in each car. As noted above members of sister Mercedes clubs and potential club members are, as always, invited to attend.

Ron Gabel



Here we are at the start of our previous road rally in 2018. Lots of fun.

Thu, October 10th, Election & Planning Meeting 6pm Cocktails, 7:00PM Dinner/Election Meeting.

Starlite Diner in Fogelsville, 233 N Route 100, Allentown PA 18106

We will have an election of officers and directors this year. We are fortunate all our current volunteer board members are willing to run again: President Mike Ziegler, V.P. Roger Egolf, Secretary Debbie Egolf, Treasurer Jolanta Piekarski, Director/Membership Coordinator Tom Lindeman, Director/Driving Events Coordinator Barry Brobst, Director/Road Rally Master Ron Gabel,

Director/Newsletter/eBlast Editor Alice Christensen, Director/Webmaster Brett Kropf, Director/IT Specialist Debra Kropf, and Director/Technical Advisor Walter Piekarski. The following position still needs to be filled: Ad/Sponsor Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, contact an officer or director or nominate that person at the Election Meeting (the nominated person must be willing to serve). We will also be discussing events for the 2020 calendar year. Bring your ideas and your 2020 planner so we can pick dates that most of you are available to attend. In appreciation for your help in planning for the 2020 events, one cocktail or soft drink and the dinner (ordered off the menu) will be paid by our section for NEPA members & their associate member. A cash bar is available for additional drinks. An RSVP to Debbie Egolf (egolf2000@yahoo.com) would be appreciated, but not required.

Mike Ziegler

Thu December 19th, Christmas Party at MELT

2880 Center Valley Pkwy #624, Center Valley PA 18034

Phone number is [\(610\) 798-9000](tel:6107989000).

Cocktails at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM. The cost per member & associate member is \$45.00 per person. Unfortunately, the room at Melt will only hold a maximum of 35 people, so other family members and friends will not be permitted. **The first 35 to pay Jolanta (our Treasurer) will be attending.** The meal will consist of a salad, a selection of 6 entrees, and a selection of 3 desserts to choose from. Your selection will be ordered the night of the party. Soda, ice tea, hot tea & coffee come with the meal. Our NEPA Section will pay for the balance of the actual cost of the meal, tax, gratuity, and 1 beer or 1 glass of wine (total value paid by NEPA Section is approximately \$72/couple). After the dinner, we will be handing out the Member of the Year Award and membership anniversary pins to those who reached 5 year incremental anniversaries. We are fortunate to have Tom Lindeman, our Membership Coordinator, tell us about bees and his bee keeping hobby after the awards..

Please send your check payable to MBCA-NEPA Section, mailed to Jolanta Piekarski at 1412 Stark Road, Bethlehem PA 18107 as soon as possible since it is limited to only 35 attendees. Checks received after the cutoff will be returned. For questions on availability, contact Jolanta at [610-745-](tel:610745)

MBCA-NEPA Fall 2019 Newsletter
2638 or jolantarentals@aol.com . Thank you very much,

Debbie Egolf.

Please check MBCA-NEPA.COM for updates after this newsletter publication.

NEWS

Meet our new members:

Frank Bardani of Bath, PA ()

Chet Dudzinski of Hatfield PA (2006 SL65 AMG)

Jack Lagara of East Stroudsburg, PA (2014 E350, 2015 ML350)

Latif Matt, Sr of Allentown, PA ()

Harrison Robitzer of Birdsboro, PA (2015 ML400 4MATIC)

Please note: if your associate member would like to receive a separate copy of our newsletter and eBlasts, please send their email address to our Newsletter Editor, Alice Christensen (achristensen@comcast.net)

Membership Renewal Reminders

Most of our members utilize the MBCA website to renew their membership. It is important when you do this to also keep your contact information up to date.

Remember that you may also add an Associate Member at no cost. This could be your spouse, another family member, or other significant person.

The MBCA National Office also provides several renewal reminders by contacting members approximately 90 days before the renewal date, the date of renewal and 30 days after the passing of the renewal date.

Keep our membership numbers and Club strong and enjoy the benefits and value of membership by renewing promptly. Please contact me if you have any

Tom Lindeman, Membership Coordinator
MBCA NEPA Section
lindemantd@gmail.com

Past events:

Sat Jul 13 - Deutsche Classic, Oley Fairgrounds near Reading PA -
www.deutscheclassic.com

Sun Aug 4 - Das Awskscht Fescht Macungie PA

Sun Aug 11 - New Hope Car Show

Sun Aug 18 - IndyCar Show at Pocono Raceway - NEPA Section Event

Sun Sep 8 - Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

Sat Sep 14 - Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic at Falkenhorst (John Bleimaier's Estate), NNJ, SNJ Event

Sun Sep 15 - Day Drive - NEPA Section Event

Sat Jul 13 - Deutsche Classic, Oley Fairgrounds

Over 40 Mercedes-Benz automobiles were on display along with Porsches, Audis, BMWs, Volkswagens, and several other minor German makes at the Deutsche Classic at the Oley Fairgrounds on July 13th.

Club member Bob Steele won Best of Show (among all makes) with his 1971 280SE. Former section member Wesley Wormser brought his 1978 280E all the way from Brunswick, GA. Other club members showing cars included Otto Christensen with both his 500SL and his C63 AMG, and Roger Egolf with his

Section President Mike Ziegler displayed a Siesta motor home built on a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter chassis in the vendor area.



Sun Aug 4 - Das Awkscht Fescht Macungie PA

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 were among the hundreds of classic and antique automobiles on display at the show, including the Patrick Ginocchetti's 1960 180B, Dan Kelly's 1969 280SL, Barry Brobst's 1980 300D, Otto Christensen's 1980 450SL, Jay Hirsh's 1987 300SDL, and Roger Egolf's 1992 500E. Plan on attending this event next year, the club will definitely be back!



Sunday 11 August - New Hope Auto Show 2019

This years New hope show was down quite a few cars as they went back to their two day show format now that the construction at the school has been completed. Personally I like the one day show better as there is a greater variety of vehicles to see.

Sunday's weather was great although it warmed up a bit by the afternoon, but all in all a great day. Our President Mike Ziegler was there with his fantastic Rolls Royce (gotta talk with him about that) and our Vice President Roger Egolf spent the day viewing the cars and time with us.

My wife Francie and I arrived early with our 1969 280SL so she could walk into New Hope to have breakfast at Fred's Breakfast along the Delaware River with my cousin and his daughter, who always brings his 1966 Porsche to the show. I had to pass on that this year as I just had a hip replacement done four weeks earlier. After a great day talking Mercedes with lots of enthusiasts we packed up and headed north along the Delaware for a nice Dinner at the Black Bass Hotel with another great view of the river. Their parking lot was like a mini car show as many others from the show had the same destination.

After dinner we took a spirited run up the twisty road along the Delaware to finish a great day.

Dan Kelly



Sunday August 18 - ABC 500 at POCONO RACEWAY

The ABC 500 Indy race of August 18, 2019 appears to be the last Indy car race at the Pocono Raceway. While it was a beautiful sunny day, only 2 classic Mercedes Benz Automobiles were on display within a field of Corvettes. There was a reasonable number of spectators, but not the amount hoped for to continue the event. It was fun and interesting to tour the pit areas prior to the race. The excitement ran high as the race began and with that a major accident happened on the first lap and the race was suspended for 45 minutes for the cleanup. With the 200 lap race restarted, a major thunderstorm forced the race to finish after 128 laps. Will Power won the race with an average speed of 168.771 MPH. It appears with the accident, lack of attendance, and the drivers blaming the shape of the track for the accident, Indy racing is done at the Pocono Raceway for the future.



Sun September 8th - Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

The 23rd Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance was held September 8, 2019. It was a beautiful day with 100 beautiful Concours cars and motorcycles from all over the country. There was also a large number of owners who brought their MB and parked in the Motorsport area near the entrance to the Concours cars.

There were 3 great MB in the Concours area (see photos):

A black 1938 MB 540K owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Jepson, Jr. of Savannah GA, with the only MB to sport a body by Normmalm, as well as one of just three cars known to exist with Normmalm coachwork. The original owner Mr. Max Gumpel of Stockholm Sweden ordered an oversized Goddess Diana mascot with a bow shooting an arrow into the sky.

A yellow 1926 MB model K owned by Michael and Joannie Rich of Orwigsburg PA, with a Fleetwood body ordered by William Sloan of NY (founder of the Sloan Plumbing Co.). The model K became the world's fastest touring car with the top speed of nearly 100 mph. The letter K stood for "Kurz", or short as it used a shorten chassis based on the MB 165 hp. It was restored by the current owner to it's original glory and colors in 2018.

A black 1972 MB 600 SWB Limousine owned by Gene and Marlene Epstein of Wrightstown PA. A 6.3L fuel-injected V8 powers the 5,700-pound car to a top speed of 120 mph. This hand-built to-order car was purchased new by singer Roy Orbison and remained in his possession until his death in 1988.

There were several horse-drawn carriages on parade. Plan to attend next year, normally the second Sunday in September.

Mike Ziegler



Sat Sep 14 - Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic

Members from the Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey, and Northeastern Pennsylvania sections of the MBCA enjoyed a beautiful day for a picnic at former regional director John Bleimeier's farm Falkenhorst in Hopewell Township, New Jersey on September 14th. Approximately 35 cars were on display, including a 1953 300S Coupe. The only attendee this year from our section was vice-president Roger Egolf with his 2003 SL500. We hope that next year more of our members will make the trip to this enjoyable (and free) event.

Sun Sep 15 - Day Drive - NEPA Section Event

Our destination on this drive was Fighter's Heaven, Muhammad Ali's training camp. This place was visited by Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Jackson 5, and Elvis (maybe, maybe not). Sylvester Stallone trained there for Rocky. The complex is located on a wooded hillside and it's about a hour and a half tour. We had our own parking area convenient to the entrance.

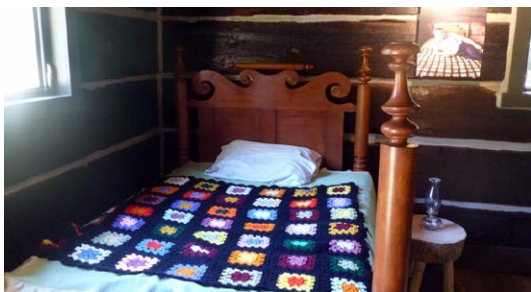
We started at 9:30 AM at Dunkin Donuts, Route 100, Foglesville, socializing with coffee and donuts, courtesy of the club. We then set off in our beautiful Mercedes' up winding roads, passing through Hawk Mountain before arriving at our final destination.

The owners of Fighter's Heaven are working to restore Fighter's Heaven, Muhammed Ali's training camp. We got to see the room with the boxing ring where the fighters trained. There are lots of memorable pictures around the room and videos. It was great being able to go back in time and watch the great fighter and his entourage.

We also got to see the kitchen where the fighters were served meals from Coretta's Kitchen. We got to see the cabin where the fighter slept and his private mosque.

Following we all met at Roman Delight Restaurant for an excellent late lunch. Once again, kudos for Barry for a lovely day drive, scenic views, and a very interesting destination, that none of us knew existed.

Alice Christensen



OnGoing Items

Technical Advisor Position for NEPA Section:

Member benefit to our NEPA Section: Walter Piekarski, owner of Walter's Foreign Car Service, has volunteered to be our Technical Advisor. Walter, along with his wife Jolanta (our NEPA Treasurer) are founding NEPA Section members. He works on most Mercedes-Benz cars. He has worked on Mercedes-Benz cars for over 50 years which makes him very knowledgeable on the older Mercedes-Benz cars too. Call him at his shop during business hours for free technical help with your Mercedes-Benz. If after talking with him, you would prefer him to do the repair, he will offer a 10% discount on labor to Mercedes-Benz Club of America members. Make sure you identify yourself as a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club when you call.

The best time to reach Walter is Mon-Thu 8:30 AM-noon, 1 PM - 4 PM at **610-865-4255** (he may have to call you back). You can visit his web site at:

Mike Ziegler

Request from our Membership Coordinator

As the Membership Chairperson for our Club, one of my duties is to maintain our Membership Directory and database. Keeping your contact information current helps the Club to provide timely and accurate information regarding events and activities.

There is a definite need to provide the following bits of information to help the Club for event planning purposes:

- The year, make, and model of your car;
- Associate Member—all Members can add one Associate Member to their membership AT NO COST! We would just need you to provide that person's First Name, Last Name and e-mail address

Double-check for accuracy---

Your current address, telephone number and e-mail address. This can be accomplished by providing the information to me at lindemantd@gmail.com or by phoning me at 610-349-9597 and I will be happy to assist!

Also, If your associate member is not currently receiving a separate copy of our newsletter and would like to receive a separate copy, please send their email address to our Newsletter Editor, Alice Christensen (achristensen@comcast.net)

Tom Lindeman

Name Badges:

Please wear your name badge to all events. If you (a NEPA member or associate member) never got a badge, your NEPA section will pay \$6 and you pay the other \$6 and it will be sent to you in the mail. If you lost your badge or would like one to keep in your other MB, they are \$12. Contact Tom Lindeman for name badges.

Mike Ziegler

Volunteer Needed to Handle Sponsor Ads

Your NEPA club is looking for a volunteer to handle sponsors (ads) in the newsletter/eBlasts. For more information contact Mike Ziegler 610-504-5370 or one of our officers or directors.

Free classified ads:

As a NEPA member benefit, if you have a Mercedes-Benz car or part for sale or wanted and are a member of the NEPA Section, you may list one ad for free per issue (limited to 20 words plus your contact information, then 20 cents per word) in the NEPA newsletter. One free picture will also be permitted if picture is emailed (\$50 if submitting a photo). Free ads may not be listed in printed copies (\$75 to ensure it will be in the printed newsletter). Submit ads by email to the newsletter editor. If you want your classified ad in another issue, you must resubmit your free ad for each newsletter. Members who are in the business of selling Mercedes Benz cars or parts may list one free classified ad per year. For paid ads email the newsletter editor or president with your request.

Personal non-NEPA member classified ads are \$25 for up to 20 words, then 20 cents per word (picture rules same as for NEPA members).

The deadline to submit classified ads are June 1st for the Summer issue, September 1st for Fall issue, December 1st for the Winter issue, and March 1st for the Spring issue.

Mike Ziegler

Airbag Recall

At Mercedes-Benz, our highest priority is keeping you safe. So we'd like to share some important information about a recall involving Takata frontal airbags used in many vehicles, including certain Mercedes-Benz models. This safety recall is a result of inflators that may improperly deploy with excessive force in the event of a crash. Takata and other inflator suppliers are working with the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to coordinate availability of replacement airbags as soon as possible. To learn more about the Takata Recall, including information on free airbag replacement, visit mbusa.com/mercedes/recall.

Personalized License Plates now Available from DMV

The Pennsylvania license plates with the Mercedes-Benz Club of America logo on them are available again through our Keystone Section. They are available either sequence numbered, or customized with up to 5 letter/numbers for an additional one-time fee. Two of our members customized plates are pictured on the top-right corner of our MBCA-NEPA.com web site. The link to the directions and forms to fill out can be found here:

<https://keystone.mbca.org/pa-license-plate>



Event Attendance Book:

Members who attend NEPA events are requested to sign the Event Attendance Book, and if you brought your Mercedes-Benz to the event, list the year, make, and model brought. If you don't see the book at the event, tell Debbie Egolf or one of the other officers (with gold colored name badges) that you would like to sign the Event Attendance Book.

Associate Members emails:

We would like to have each member who has a spouse or partner, to list that person at no additional cost, as an associate member, and to list their email address so they also get the newsletters and other updates directly. You can do that by logging into the MBCA.org web site (also notify editor if you want the associate member to receive emailed newsletters and eBlasts), or email the information to [Tom Lindeman](mailto:Tom.Lindeman) along with their phone number (or let him know that the associate member's phone number is the same as the member's phone number).

MBCA Car Flags for sale:

Blue car flags with the MBCA logo on both sides are available. They fit on the side windows. They are good for any MBCA event to show your support of our club. They are available from Debbie Egolf or Mike Ziegler at most events. Preferably, email Debbie at egolf2000@yahoo.com so she knows to give it to you at the event you are going to. There is a donation of \$5 requested preferably by check to MBCA-NEPA. Get one for each of your MB cars and keep it in the car, so you don't have to remember to take it with you on an event.

MBCA Northeastern PA Section Logo Clothing Available!

A diverse line of quality men's and women's *Lands' End* activewear, outerwear, shirts, sweaters and other items are available with our MBCA Section logo.

Visit the *Lands' End* website at <http://business.landsend.com> to browse the catalog or email them at businessoutfitters@landsend.com.

You can also connect by telephone at 800-587-1541.

*Be sure to indicate that you are a member of the **MBCA Northeastern PA Section** and wish to have that logo placed on your selected items.*

[Survey Request:](#)

In an effort to keep the NEPA section interesting and relevant to all of our members, we have included a link to a survey. If you have not previously filled out the survey, would you please fill out this short 6 question survey regarding your preferences by clicking the below link. Thank you!

[Click here to complete short survey.](#)

Tom Lindeman



LIKE us on facebook!

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

www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA



As a Mercedes Benz owner, you experience the best automobile in the world to drive.
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(610) 437-3374 starservicecentermb.com **738 N. Graham St. Allentown**

Mike Ziegler | President | 610-504-5370 | mikez@zieglersrv.com

Roger Egolf | Vice President | 610-393-2688 | rae4@psu.edu

Debbie Egolf | Secretary | 610-751-7685 | egolf2000@yahoo.com

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

Tom Lindeman | Membership Coordinator | lindemantd@gmail.com

Barry Brobst | Driving Events Coordinator | 610-390-1878 | bbrobst@ptd.net

Ron Gabel | Rally Master | rggabel@ptd.net

Alice Christensen | MBCA-NEPA Newsletter/eBlast Editor | achristensen@comcast.net

MBCA NEPA Fall 2019 Newsletter
Bret Kropf | bkropf@mbca.com

Debra Kropf | IT Specialist | Debra@Kropf.com

Walter Piekarski | Technical Advisor | 610-865-4255 | www.WaltersMercedesServices.com

Bill Fisher | Regional Director - Mid Atlantic | 609-221-2633 | billfisher_560sl@yahoo.com

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

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