

**Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Section**

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

[MBCA-NEPA.COM](http://MBCA-NEPA.COM)



**Shining Star  
Winter 2019 Newsletter**

***President's Message***

Many of our 2020 events were selected at the General Membership Election/Planning Meeting and are shown in this newsletter. All the officers and directors agreed to volunteer for another term of service to the members, and they were re-elected (see the list at the bottom of this newsletter). Also, at the meeting, we were glad to have John Sale volunteer to take the Advertising Coordinator position. John was approved by NEPA board of directors for that position and approved as a board member. See John's biography in this newsletter. I'm glad to have such a great team to work with.

If you put your Mercedes Benz away for the winter, many recommend putting a gasoline stabilizer in your fuel tank to slow down the breakdown of ethanol blended gasoline and protect your engine, gasoline tank, and fuel lines. Others simply avoid ethanol blended gasoline and use only ethanol-free gasoline ( <https://www.pure-gas.org/> ). Gasoline Stabilizers can be used in pure-gas, but is not critical for a Winter lay-over like with the ethanol blends. For those with a 4MATIC or AWD, the winter drives may be fun and fortunately safer than many other cars, but the car and tires do have limits, so be careful.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

***Mike Ziegler***



---

## ***In this Issue:***

[UpComing 2020 Events](#)

[Memorial: Aaron Newman](#)

## **News including:**

- New Members
- Meet John Sale, Advertising Coordinator, NEPA's newest board member
- Pictures of events needed for our website
- Philadelphia Auto Show News -- the end of an era
- Looking for a host for 2019 summer picnic
- Member-of-the-Year, Membership Chairman-of-the-Year, member anniversary pins: see Christmas Party article under Past Events

## **Past Events:**

- 2019 Fall Road Rally
- NEPA Section Election/Planning Meeting October 10 Starlight Diner
- NEPA 2019 Christmas Party

Ongoing items including: Airbag Recall, Personalized License Plates available, Associate Members emails, MBCA Car Flags for sale, Technical Advisor Position for NEPA Section, Name Badges, Free Classified Ads, MBCA Northeastern PA Section Logo Clothing Available!, Survey Request, Membership Renewal Reminder

---

## **Upcoming Events**

---

## 2020 Events per 10/10/19 Planning / Board Meeting

**Tue, Mar 10 | 7PM-9PM | NEPA Section Board Meeting**

---

**Thu, Apr 16 | 6PM | NEPA Spring Dinner**

---

**Sat, May 16 | | NEPA Day Drive**

---

**Sun, Jun 7 | 9AM-4PM | Hershey Concours d'Elegance**

---

**Tue, Jun 9 | 7PM-9PM | NEPA Board Meeting**

---

**Sat, Jun 20 | 1PM-5PM | NEPA picnic - Location TBD**

---

**Sat, Jul 11 | 8AM-4PM | Deutsch Classic, Oley (NEPA/Keystone)**

---

**Sun, Aug 2 | 8AM-4PM | Das Awkscht Fesche, Macungie (NEPA)**

---

**Sun, Aug 9 | 8AM-4PM | New Hope Car Show, New Hope, PA (Del Val Section)**

---

**Tue, Sep 1 | 7PM-9PM | NEPA Board Meeting**

---

**Sun, Sep 20 | | NEPA Day Drive**

---

**Sat, Sep ? | | NNJ/SNJ Picnic Bleimeier's Hopewell NJ**

---

**Sat, Oct 3 | | NEPA Road Rally**

---

**Thu, Oct 15 | 6 PM | NEPA Planning Meeting/Election, Starlite Diner, Foglesville, PA**

---

**Thu, Oct 15 | 8:45 PM | NEPA Board Meeting**

---

**Thu, Dec 17 | 6:00PM | NEPA Christmas/Holiday Party**

---

Please check [MBCA-NEPA.COM](http://MBCA-NEPA.COM) for updates after this newsletter publication.

---

Memorial

## Aaron Newman

Aaron Newman was a significant member of our club and will be missed. Aaron and Helen were welcomed into the club with Debra & Brett Kropf in 2015. They enjoyed many precious times together listening to their unique experiences - from flying large planes to caring for & driving Mercedes-Benz classic automobiles. Read more about Aaron's life in his obituary [here](#).

---

## News

---

### Meet our new members:

Tom Byerly of Birdsboro, PA (2014 E350, 2015 ML350),  
Christina Cimino of Bethlehem, PA (2016 C300)  
Cory Cummings of Myerstown PA (2019 GLE 350 4MATIC)  
Traci Hafner of Walnutport, PA  
Walt Hafner of Northampton PA  
Simon Picciuti of Long Pond, Pa (2007 E63 AMG Sedan)

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](mailto:achristensen@comcast.net))

---

### **Meet John Sale, Advertising Coordinator-- newest NEPA Board Member**



John retired from the Lehigh University Energy Research Center (ERC) in 2011. He was responsible for developing business with new and existing clients. John and the other ERC staff engineers provided research and development and consulting engineering services related to power plants design and operations. These services included improving unit environmental performance and reducing emissions.

John is the proud owner of a 2004 Mercedes Benz CLK320 cabriolet. He joined the MBCA-NEPA in 2018. He has owned several sports cars over the years, but an MB has always been on the “bucket list”.



Finding a relatively low mileage car with only a couple of things to repair was an opportunity not to pass. The car is fun to drive and attend NEPA and other automotive events. I’m looking forward to working with the NEPA board as the Advertising Coordinator. My role is to contact businesses that you use and would recommend for advertising in our newsletter. This is a good way to share our experience in finding good services for our MBs.

---

**Pictures of events needed for our website:**

When you take pictures at our club events, please email the ones you would like to see on our website to Debra Kropf [debra@kropf.com](mailto:debra@kropf.com) for possible inclusion on our website.

---

## Philadelphia Auto Show News:

The end on an era .....

The South Jersey Section has arranged for the club to have early access to the Mercedes pavilion at the Philadelphia Auto Show for years. I've been managing the event for 10 years and Rob Fini for many years before that.

Seems MBUSA is changing their marketing approach. Several car manufacturers missed the Philadelphia Auto Show last year, and I was advised that 2019 may be the last for Mercedes. Well, it is. The major car shows are being replaced with "pop-up" car shows around the country.

Bill Fisher, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

---

## Looking for a Host for 2019 Summer Picnic

Would you like to host the NEPA summer picnic at your home? The club would provide and prepare the food and drinks. Contact Debbie Egolf 610-751-7685 | [egolf2000@yahoo.com](mailto:egolf2000@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer.

---

## Past events:

---

### 2019 FALL RALLY REPORT

#### 2019 FALL RALLY REPORT

Our 2019 Fall Rally was held Saturday October 5th, 2019. The rally was a success with twenty-two people participating which included six who were visitors from the North Jersey Section of the Mercedes Club.

The rally started with an optional breakfast at the Schnecksville Diner followed by the twenty-three and a half mile scenic country drive during which the correct route had to be followed while searching for the correct answers to thirty-five questions concerning things located along the route.

The rally ended at the Country View restaurant in Slatington PA where participants had lunch while sharing their experiences following the route, locating the correct answers to questions and attempting to justify how they arrived at incorrect ones.

This year first place winners were Mike and Nancy Ziegler in car number three, second place winners were Dan and Francis Kelly in car number eight and third place went to car number two containing visiting members from the North Jersey Section.

The weather co-operated and everyone enjoyed the drive and the fellowship.  
**SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!**



Scene along the way



Doing good so far



Photo on the left: participants enjoy lunch at the Country View Restaurant. On the right: Ron Gabel, our Rally Master, presents the trophy to the winners -- Mike and Nancy Ziegler!

Photos courtesy of Ron Gabel

---

## **NEPA Section Election/Planning Meeting October 10 Starlight Diner**

The biggest news of the night was the addition of John Sale, our newest board member, Ad Coordinator. John jumped right in and got to work. Seemed like he was always in this position. We are so grateful to have him.

Thanks to all the officers and directors for their willingness to volunteer their time for another term, and the unanimous approval at the meeting. See the list of officers and directors at the bottom of this newsletter. Many 2020 events were discussed and some of the events are described in this newsletter. Mark your calendar with these events and join in on the fun and comradery with fellow MB enthusiasts.

Thanks,  
Mike

---

### **NEPA 2019 Christmas Party at Melt**

On Thursday, December 19, we held our annual Christmas Party at Melt Grill in Center Valley, PA. The amount per couple (member & associate member) paid by the section was more than the dues for the year.

Twenty-two people attended. Melt put us in a room that only held 25 instead of the original room that held 35. Everyone had their choice of drink before dinner. There were several appetizer, entree, and dessert items members could choose from.

John and Arlene Frailey received the NEPA Section Member of the Year Award. They hosted the NEPA Section picnic twice. Tom Lindeman received the Mid-Atlantic Region Membership Chair of the Year Award.

After dinner, Tom Lindeman, bee keeper, gave an informative and interesting presentation on bees, including history and facts. There were many great questions from the audience that reflected the attentiveness to Tom's very engaging discussion regarding bees and their keepers. Everyone enjoyed his fascinating presentation and learned a lot, including the importance of these pollinators to life on earth.

We hope you will all join us next year. It has always been a wonderful evening.





Top Photo: Tom Lindeman (top right) presents 40-year membership pin to Nancy and Mike Ziegler. Helen Newman, seated, was presented her 5 year membership pin (husband Aaron sadly passed away before this event). See [Memorial: Aaron Newman](#) following the list of 2020 events above.

Bottom left: Bill Fisher presenting Mid-Atlantic Region Membership Chair of the year award to Tom Lindeman. Bottom right: Mike Ziegler presents Member of the Year award to John and Arlene Frailey.

Photos courtesy of Debra Kropf

---

## 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:

[www.WaltersMercedesServices.com](http://www.WaltersMercedesServices.com)

Mike Ziegler

---

### **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](mailto: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.*

Tom Lindeman

---

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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

---

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](#) 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](mailto: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.

---

### 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

---

### 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 questions or issues.

Tom Lindeman, Membership Coordinator

MBCA NEPA Section

[lindemantd@gmail.com](mailto:lindemantd@gmail.com)

---



## Why Buy From Tom Masano Inc.?

**WE ARE READING AND BERKS COUNTY, PA'S FACTORY AUTHORIZED SOURCE FOR NEW AND CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED MERCEDES-BENZ & SPRINTER VANS.**

We also offer a vast selection of Quality Pre-Owned CARS, TRUCKS AND SUV'S – something for everyone! Our constantly monitored, market based, "one easy price" shopping makes buying or leasing from us a value second to none! At Tom Masano, Inc. - a Mercedes-Benz dealer on Lancaster Avenue, your purchase of a New or Certified Preowned Mercedes-Benz includes at no additional charge: • lifetime annual PA inspection • no charge MB loaner cars with service appointment • valet service to your home or office • complimentary hand car wash with service visit & more.

**Just Completed in 2019** - An all new state of the art Mercedes-Benz showroom, service and parts facility built to MBUSA's Auto Haus "Black" architectural requirements accentuating a beautiful showroom and drive thru service plus so much more!

**WE STRIVE EVERY DAY TO GIVE YOU THE BEST IN AN AUTOMOTIVE PURCHASE AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE!**

The best people giving you the very best in an automotive experience – MB Certified Sales, Service, Parts & Body shop. Reading and Berks County, PA's factory authorized MB retailer since 1969.

**WE HONOR THE MBCA "Member in Good Standing" \$500 INCENTIVE (where applicable)**  
**PLUS TAKE 10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE SERVICE INVOICE WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD!**

Mercedes-Benz  
**Tom Masano** Masano.MercedesDealer.com | 1.877.TomMasano | 1.877.866.6272 | 815 Lancaster Ave | Reading, PA 19607



schearers.com. A call to action asks to inquire about a 'Get Acquainted Offer'."/>

**EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY**  
**UNMATCHED SERVICE**  
**PERSONAL TOUCH**

**Peace of Mind Benefits include:**

- Transparency-We'll explain what's needed and give you options in plain English
- Amazing 36 month/36,000 mile nationwide warranty
- We use the same tools as the dealer to service your vehicle including XENTRY diagnostics
- Factory scheduled maintenance-To protect your investment
- Jeff Diehl, our Mercedes Master Guild Recognized Technician, has 38 years of experience
- Family owned with 24/7 access to Tom, the proud owner
- No surprises-You stay in control
- Complimentary loaners/shuttle service

Ask about our "Get Acquainted Offer" for your first visit

5530 Crackersport Rd, Allentown, PA / 610.395.8433 / [schearers.com](http://schearers.com)



**LIKE** us on facebook!

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA)

starservicecentermb.com, 738 N. Graham St. Allentown."/>

**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](http://starservicecentermb.com) **738 N. Graham St. Allentown**

Mike Ziegler | President | 610-504-5370 | [mikez@zieglersrv.com](mailto:mikez@zieglersrv.com)

Roger Egolf | Vice President | 610-393-2688 | [rae4@psu.edu](mailto:rae4@psu.edu)

Debbie Egolf | Secretary | 610-751-7685 | [egolf2000@yahoo.com](mailto:egolf2000@yahoo.com)

Jolanta Piekarski | Treasurer | [jolanta.rentals@verizon.net](mailto:jolanta.rentals@verizon.net)

Tom Lindeman | Membership Coordinator | [lindemantd@gmail.com](mailto:lindemantd@gmail.com)

Barry Brobst | Driving Events Coordinator | 610-390-1878 | [bbrobst@ptd.net](mailto:bbrobst@ptd.net)

Ron Gabel | Rally Master | [rggabel@ptd.net](mailto:rggabel@ptd.net)

Alice Christensen | MBCA-NEPA Newsletter/eBlast Editor | [achristensen@comcast.net](mailto:achristensen@comcast.net)



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

Debra Kropf | IT Specialist | [Debra@Kropf.com](mailto:Debra@Kropf.com)

Walter Piekarski | Technical Advisor | 610-865-4255 | [www.WaltersMercedesServices.com](http://www.WaltersMercedesServices.com)

John Sale | Advertising Coordinator | (610) 442-5930 | [jws3@lehigh.edu](mailto:jws3@lehigh.edu)

Bill Fisher | Regional Director - Mid Atlantic | 609-221-2633 | [billfisher\\_560sl@yahoo.com](mailto:billfisher_560sl@yahoo.com)

**Submit news, event, and other contributions for MBCA NEPA Shining Star Newsletter to**  
[nepa.mbca@gmail.com](mailto:nepa.mbca@gmail.com)

*Copyright © 2019 Mercedes-Benz Club of America Northeastern Pennsylvania Section, All rights reserved.*