

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Region

Mercedes-Benz  
Club of America

SINCE 1981



## *Shining Star* Summer 2015 Newsletter

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### President's Message

Our NEPA section started the year with the Spring Diner May 21st where we had one of the best meals and John Bleimaier gave an interesting narration for his wonderful digital presentation of cars from the Amelia Island event. The 190SL Group's Concours June 13th was a magnificent display of 190SL cars. I met Mary Anne Westphal from FL who had her 190SL there. She got it for her 16th birthday, when the 190SL was 4 years old. That was 50 years ago, and she still has and enjoys the car and it looks beautiful.

I would like to thank John & Arlene Frailey for allowing us to have the picnic at their home June 27th at their Shadow Mountain Farm.

We have some great summer events coming up as stated in this newsletter. Look for a future eBlast with info on our July 25th tour of The Boyertown Car Museum of cars manufactured in PA! I'm hoping to combine this with a special tour of a private collection of antique cars and carriages along with a driving tour in-between the two locations.

We are looking for a few people to help with driving tours, membership, name tags & member pins. We are also looking for a home or place to hold the Annual Christmas Party/Dinner December 5th.

I look forward to see you at a summer event.

Mike Ziegler



## News

### **Where is YOUR MBCA NEPA Name tag?**

Do you have your name tag for our NEPA section? A name tag worn at events helps you to know new members and reminds you the name of others you met before. It also helps the new member get to know existing members. If you (or associate member) lost your name tag or want another one (so you can put one in each MB so you have it at the next event) they are available for \$10 and can be ordered at the next event. If you have never had a MBCA-NEPA issued name tag, you will only have to pay \$5 and our section will pay the other half for the member and the associate member. Let Mike Ziegler know at the next event or any officer if he isn't there. Payment is made when placing your order (checks to MBCA-NEPA preferred).



*LIKE us on facebook!*

*Have a new car to show off?  
Looking to sell a car or parts?  
Have a tech question?*

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

*Please join us at -*

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

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# Ziegler's RV

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## Event Recap



### **Age of Beauty 190SL Concours at Bethlehem SteelStacks by Ramon Infante**

Earlier this month the International 190SL Group held their National Convention in the Lehigh Valley. On Saturday June 13th a car show and concours event was featured at the base of the Bethlehem Steel blast furnaces.

A diverse selection of 190SL were represented in various conditions. It was nice to see so many in one place and compare the differences. The 190SL is a significant and collectible car with values increasing every year.

The former site of Bethlehem Steel and enormous blast furnaces offered an interesting backdrop to the event. The old structures of the once great giant are in various states. Some have been rehabilitated and improvements are underway. But many are left unused and weathered. Decades of time telling their story as the steel, brick, and stone age.

I find beauty in the simplicity of the old structures around the site. Imagining the scenes of time that played out around them. The 190SL reminds me of a time when cars served a simpler purpose. A mode of transportation. Today we drive around in a sea of fashion accessories filled with techno distractions.

My favorite 190SL were the ones in unrestored, original condition. I want to see a little pitting on the chrome, wear marks on the seats, a scuff mark in the paint. Open the door and smell of old wood and leather inviting me to sit behind the wheel.

Celebrate the Age of Beauty



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## Upcoming Events



**Saturday, July 11th 2015**  
**Oley Fairgrounds, Pennsylvania**

The Deutsche Classic is an all-German automotive event, welcoming vintage, classic and late model German vehicles - cars, motorcycles and more! The day's events include a swap meet, car show with unique hand crafted show car awards, live music, food, and other activities. The entry fee of \$25 per car includes one general admission. If you aren't showing a car, the general admission price is \$17, which includes food tickets. Children under 12 are free, but food is not included in the free children's admission. Go to the following web site for additional information, including directions. [www.deutscheclassic.com](http://www.deutscheclassic.com)



The 2015 Das Awkscht Fescht will be held at Macungie Memorial Park on the weekend of July 31st to August 2nd, 2015. The event is one of the largest car shows in the country, with 800 to 1000 cars of all makes on display each day.

Gates open each day at 6:00am for walk-in visitors. Show cars enter the fields after 7:30am. Flea market goes through dusk, and arts & crafts vendors are open until 9pm. Entertainment goes until 10:30pm on Fri and Sat, and until 4:30pm on Sun. FIREWORKS are on Saturday night at 9:30pm. The admission fee each day is \$7 for adults, \$2 for age 15 and under.

**Our club will be participating in the Sunday, August 2nd event**  
**Registration for show cars ends on July 1st**

See the following web site for more information. [www.awkscht.com](http://www.awkscht.com)

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**Insert your Logo here!**

Contact Ramon Infante at [76ford@gmail.com](mailto:76ford@gmail.com) for MBCA NEPA advertising information

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# The New Hope Automobile Show

August 8 & 9, 2015 | New Hope-Solebury High School | New Hope, Pennsylvania

MBCA NEPA will be joining the Delaware Valley section for The New Hope Show on Sunday August 9th. You may enter any Mercedes-Benz model thru 1990.

Register online at [www.newhopeautoshow.com](http://www.newhopeautoshow.com)

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Gemütlichkeit 2015

Hosted by the Western Reserve Section  
Pittsburgh, PA August 19-22, 2015

Gemütlichkeit is your opportunity to make and renew MBCA friendships throughout the country. Enjoy banquets, driving, autocross, Concours, tours and fun.

[For information and registration click here](#)

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## Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

Motorsports Park

Sunday Sept 13th

Malvern, Pennsylvania

FEATURED CLASSES Packard, Alfa Romeo and Classic Pickup Trucks To Share Radnor Hunt Show Field with BMW Motorcycles, Police Motorcycles and Land Speed Record Holders

Mercedes-Benz club members will have our own reserved space at MotorSport Park with a great view of the show area.

Motorsport Park is rain or shine. Admission and parking for the driver and vehicle is \$60. This includes admission to the grounds, a show poster, show program and a dash plaque. Each additional passenger is \$35 which includes their show ticket and a program. We have only 25 spaces in the field. register early. Gates open at 9:00 AM.

[radnorconcours.org/event-details/sunday/car-club-parking](http://radnorconcours.org/event-details/sunday/car-club-parking)

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## Walter's Foreign Cars

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## Member Contribution

### High Gear

### IN PRAISE OF IMPERFECTION

by John Kuhn Bleimaier

Imperfections and idiosyncrasies are endearing. Would we love Marylyn Monroe quite so much if she did not have that damned mole, a gross solecism, on her flawless cheek? The English-speaking people adored King George because of, not despite, his blasted sssstammer. Would the Liberty Bell be our national icon without the crack? I rest my case.

Well the same thing applies to motorcars. The largest marque based organization in the country is the Porsche Club of America. As everyone who has driven one well and truly knows, Porsches have always been quirky. Rear weight bias that surpasses Michelle Obama and a swing axle made the 356s from Zuffenhausen positively suicidal... and beloved. Try lifting off in a tight corner while driving a 911 and you will get a feel for Porsche heritage and a 360 degree view of the scenery. Porsche aficionados are enamored of their funky cars. They only moan and complain when the company brings out a perfectly sensible SUV or a practical four door saloon.

Now anyone familiar with the enthusiast car scene knows that the most fanatical crew are the devotees of English cars. The sun has never set on the British automobile devotee, despite the fact that most of Albion's erstwhile grand marques have gone the way of the raj and the stiff upper lip. There are still MG and Triumph clubs. Even the Bristol and the Armstrong Siddley continue to have a following. These thoroughly decent chaps gather not to extol the virtues of their chosen objects of affection. On the contrary the anglophiles revel in droll stories of Lucas electrical systems and the prince of darkness; of drinking warm beer from Lucas refrigerators. These upper crusty fans of Masoch and the Marquis de Sade exchange twisted stories of exquisite pain and mechanical disaster by the side of the road.

Given this unaccountable perversion in the human character, is it any wonder that we in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America are occasionally plagued with modest membership numbers and unimpressive event participation? When is the last time you shared an exciting tale of having been stranded by your Mercedes? Have you ever reveled in the psychotropic sensation of inhaling the smoke of a burning wiring harness? How often have you boasted of the design flaws which give your car character? Need I say more?

So the bane of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is actually a feather in the cap of Mercedes-Benz the purveyor of fine motorcars. Intelligent well adjusted folks purchase Mercedes automobiles in droves. However, they don't join our club in commensurate numbers because there is no impetus to gather together and commiserate. This conundrum has preoccupied my thoughts for quite some time. I now have arrived at a solution.

There are many superannuated, clapped-out vehicles on the used car market which still wear the silver star. These former luxury and sports vehicles surviving from a bygone generation are mere shadows of their former selves. They are rusted and misused, damaged and neglected. Long out of warranty, characterized by outdated technology and yesteryear's styling they have fallen into the hands of young louts, dissolute eccentrics and chronic underachievers who have not had the means to maintain them. While these fine cars were built without planned obsolescence, careless owners have inflicted a cruel toll. The presently tarted up, bondo botched, erstwhile reliable beauties have become a pitiable scourge.

Here's my plan for enlivening our club and multiplying its membership. Owners of new Mercedes-Benz characterized by flawless perfection should be encouraged to adopt a fallen starship from the distant past as a humanitarian act of charity. I am not talking about acquiring a concours, trailer queen. I mean buying a used car lot nightmare with sagging doors, bubbles in the paint and blue exhaust smoke; a car which has been cruelly abused by the heedless rabble.

Now the new adoptive owners of the old stray thinkers will have mechanical problems with which to contend. There will be adventures with tow truck drivers and heart to heart discussions with parts merchants. They will experience the agony of the failure to start and the occasional ecstasy of the solved electrical problem. In general, there will be the need for a support group; for a shoulder on which to cry; for a source of friendly counsel. Enter the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.



## MBCA-NEPA Classifieds

### **MBCA Car Flags available for sale**

Blue car flags with the MBCA logo on both sides are on order. They fit on the side windows. They are good for caravan driving events to make it easier to keep together, or for any MBCA event to show your support. They should be delivered to Mike Ziegler at the Deutsche Classic Show July 11th or at most events after that (preferably email Mike Ziegler which event you want to get it and pay by check to MBCA-NEPA).

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## *Selling your Mercedes-Benz or related item?*

NEPA Section members are permitted to list one free ad with photo in each Shining Star newsletter.

Contact Ramon Infante at [76ford@gmail.com](mailto:76ford@gmail.com) to submit your ad



## SAVE THE DATE

July 11, 2015 [The Deutsche Classic, Oley PA](#)

July 25, 2015 [Drive to the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles and Private Tour](#)

August 2, 2015 [Das Awkscht Fescht at Macungie Memorial Park](#)

August 8-9, 2015 [The New Hope Automobile Show](#)

August 15, 2015 NEPA Shirimp Boil at the Marina, Tom's River NJ

August 19-22, 2015 [Gem?lichkeit 2015, Pittsburgh, PA](#)

September 13, 2015 [Radnor Hunt Concours d' Elegance, Malvern PA](#)

September 19, 2015 Northern NJ Picnic at Falkenhorst, Hopewell NJ

October 4, 2015 [Drive and Tailgating at Tinicum Park Polo Club](#)

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## Your MBCA-NEPA Board

Mike Ziegler | President | [zieglersrv@rcn.com](mailto:zieglersrv@rcn.com)

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

Debbie Egolf | Secretary | [egolf2000@yahoo.com](mailto:egolf2000@yahoo.com)

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

Ramon Infante | Newsletter Editor | [76ford@gmail.com](mailto:76ford@gmail.com)

Ron Gabel | Assistant Newsletter Editor | [rggabel@ptd.net](mailto:rggabel@ptd.net)

Erica Jantos | Webmaster [ericajantos@live.com](mailto:ericajantos@live.com)

Joe Grattan | Regional Director | Mid Atlantic | [jjosephgrattan@aol.com](mailto:jjosephgrattan@aol.com)

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Submit news, event, and other contributions for MBCA NEPA Shining Star Newsletter to Ramon Infante at [76ford@gmail.com](mailto:76ford@gmail.com)

Questions? Email your Section Officer or contact our  
National Business Office at 1.800.637.2360 M-F, 8am-5pm MT.

Or visit [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

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