

MBCA NEPA Fall 2017 Newsletter

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Section
Mercedes-Benz Club
of America**

MBCA-NEPA.COM



**Shining Star
Fall 2017 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 September 9th [Regional 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)

The other driving event is our Day Drive on October 14th, being planned by Barry Brobst.

Our section is helping to man the table at the MBCA area in the MotorSport section of the [Radnor Hunt Concours](#) on September 10th (see info in this newsletter). Let me know if you would help some time 9 AM - 12:30 PM.

I didn't get anyone that contacted me who was interested in any of the positions up for election. We are fortunate that all the officers and directors have agreed to run for another term. On November 9th, we will have our election/planning meeting (with Free cocktail & dinner) to discuss 2018 events and dates for these events. Come out and share your ideas or let us know if you are

interested in the events others suggest.
I look forward to seeing you at our events,

Mike Ziegler



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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 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 on them are now available again through our Keystone Section. The link to the directions and forms to fill out can be found here:.

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



Meet our new members:

Rodolfo Fernandez of Hawley, PA
Jack Lagara of East Stroudsburg, PA (2013 E350 white 4matic)
Edward LoSapio of Scotrun, PA (2007 S550 4matic)
Roman Lytvyn of Pocono Summit, PA
Richard Pistolas of Allentown, PA (2012 C 300)

Ongoing items from previous newsletters:

Event Attendance Book:

We will be trying something new. Members who attend NEPA events are requested to sign the Event Attendance Book, and if you brought your MB 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.

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 \$5 and you pay the other \$5 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 \$10. Contact Mike Ziegler for name badges.

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. You can do that by logging onto the www.MBCA.org site or email the information to Mike Ziegler along with their phone number (or let me know that the associate member's phone number is the same as the member's phone number).

Membership Person needed:

NEPA is looking for a Membership Person. This person would welcome new members, be the one to order name tags (mailed by MBCA directly to the member), membership anniversary pins, pass the Event Attendance Book around at events (or assign someone if you won't be there), follow up on members who don't renew, etc. If you would be willing to volunteer, let one of the officers know.

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.

Upcoming Events

Sat Sep 9 2017 Fall Frolic Rally, Joint Keystone Section and NEPA Event.

Everyone had such a good time last year. Hope you can join us for this next one.

This promises to be even more fun and more exciting this year as we are making it a joint event with the **Keystone Section of Mercedes Benz Club of America!**

The rally is being designed again this year by Ronald G. Gabel, our NEPA Rally Master extraordinaire. The rally is on Saturday September 9, 2017. The rally will begin with breakfast on your own at The Perkins Diner on Route 191 (Route 22 & 191), Bethlehem PA. - from **8:30-10:00 AM**.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! THIS IS IN NO WAY A RACE. In this rally the aim is to follow a predetermined route, and correctly answer questions along the way. Going too fast will hurt your chances of winning. Answers to all questions can be found along the route for those lucky enough to locate them. (Sort of a treasure hunt).

Our rally will cover approximately fifty miles (four to five hours). 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 questions, answers to which 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. Of course, so will missing the answer.

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 driver's meeting prior to the start of the rally.

ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE THERE PRIOR TO THE **DRIVER'S MEETING ABOUT 9:45**. 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.

Complementary light Refreshments and toilet facilities will be available at the half-way point of the rally; sodas and pizza will be available PAID BY THE CLUB at the end of the rally with additional 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! **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO USE A MERCEDES CAR!** Remember potential members and/or friends are welcome to participate in your car or their own.

Although it is not required, it would be helpful if you would email or phone **Ron Gabel** (rggabel@ptd.net) that you are going to the Rally and how many

people would be in your car, so he can plan how many handouts, refreshments, and food are needed.

Sun Sep 10 9AM-4PM Radnor Hunt C d'Elegance

21st Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance Sunday September 10th, 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 a Mercedes-Benz). Passengers are \$50 adults, 12 to 18-year-old's \$25, 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.

This is a Mid-Atlantic Regionally sponsored event (NEPA Section is a part of this region). A canopy will be in the MotorSport area with applications for membership and Star magazines to encourage people to join MBCA. Delaware Valley Section is the main host and NEPA Section is assisting. If you can take some time manning the table, let Mike Ziegler know. NEPA will be taking the 9am to 12:30pm shift.

Sat Sep 9 Picnic, John Bleimaier's Hopewell, NJ -- note date Change from September 16

Sat Oct 14 Saturday Drive-Fall Foliage, NEPA Section Event. This spring we had a most wonderful time driving our caravan of beautiful Mercedes through scenic towns ending up at Bill's Bike Barn. More information and pictures can be found in our [2016 Winter Newsletter](#). It was a wonderful day and we are looking forward to this Fall's Saturday Drive. More information will be forthcoming in a future newsletter and/or eBlast.

Thu, Nov 9, 7:00PM Election & Planning Meeting for 2018 events, with FREE dinner & drink

We will have an election of officers and directors this year. We are fortunate all 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 Coordinator, Ad/Sponsor Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, contact an officer or director. We will also be discussing events for the 2018 calendar year. Bring your ideas and your 2018 planning calendar so we can pick dates that most of you are available to attend. In appreciation for your help in planning for the 2018 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. RSVP to Debbie Egolf (egolf2000@yahoo.com) appreciated, but not required.

Thu Dec 14, 7:00 PM Christmas Holiday Dinner, NEPA Section Event, Blue Grillhouse

May 14 - May 22 2018 MBCA StarFest 2018 National Event at Barber Motorsports Park & Talladega Superspeedway, Alabama

Registration is open for next year's StarFest 2018 and the special rate at the Hilton. The great spots are filling up for a spectacular event including MBUSI Factory Tours, Tech Session & Road Rallies, Autobahn Experience at Talladega Superspeedway, Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum, Concours d'Elegance, Off-Road Experience & Drives, Two Competitive Events (Talladega Acceleration Runs, and Autocross at the Barber Proving Ground Track), Highway Performance Driving, and more! Brett & Debra Kropf have made their reservations and would like to hear from other Section members that have signed up. More in upcoming newsletters...

****Check MBCA-NEPA.COM for more up-to-date info****

Past events:

Summer Picnic at Otto's Garage July 15, 2017

Our members would like to thank Alice and Otto Christensen for their second year-in-a-row hosting the annual picnic of our Mercedes club. We had a very good showing of members and cars, plenty of food and drink, fun conversation and handing out the trophies to winners of the vehicles.



Knopf Automotive sponsored the Star trophies and we thank Dave Helmer and Jim Sangiorgio for bringing the brand new Mercedes to our picnic. In the picture at left are Mike Ziegler and Jim Sangiorgio. Jim represented Knopf automotive. It was a beautiful Mercedes. Thank you, Knopf!



We want to thank Jolanta and Debbie who did the cooking for the people. The food was delicious and everyone had a great time. Thank you again, Otto and Alice for having us. We appreciate it so much and enjoyed having your family from Denmark join us.

We will miss Wesley Wormser as he is headed to his first year in college in Georgia. He came to most events and is the youngest member of our group. We will miss him tremendously and wish him a good year at college.



Wesley and his family brought two cases of water that had Mercedes labels on it and a Mercedes cake that had strawberry in it and drizzled over it and a couple other desserts and supplied the paper products and plastic products. We thank them so much for their participation.



Das Awkscht Fescht

Several of our section members enjoyed a beautiful day at Das Awkscht Fescht at the Macungie Memorial Park on Sunday August 6th. This show is always a great event to attend. Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's Das Awkscht Fescht on the first Sunday of August in 2018.

Below are some of the beautiful pictures taken by and used with the permission of Jay Hirsh! Seven Mercedes-Benzenes were on display including Roger Egolf's 1992 500E (not shown), Dan Kelly's 1971 280SL, Barry Brobst's 1967 230 SL, Wesley Wormser's 1978 280E, and Aaron and Helen Newman's 300D Wagon. Jay Hirsh from the Northern New Jersey Section, who graciously provided us with photos of the cars at the show, brought his 1987 300SDL and nonmember Richard Hough showed his red 380SL.





New Hope Auto Show August 13, 2017 submitted by Daniel R. Kelly

On Sunday morning, 13 Aug, 2017, my wife Francie and I left about 6:15 in the morning for about an hour and fifteen minute ride to The New Hope Automobile Show. We arrived about 7:35AM as the gates opened. We were parked out back this year, which at first looked a little distressing as the grass was high and wet, but as it warmed up everything was fine. We then met my cousin and his daughter from New Jersey with his 1966, 912 Porsche, and walked into New Hope to Fred's Breakfast. A great place if you're looking for good food, see their web page.

We were the first Mercedes, but when we got back from breakfast around 9:30 AM it was filling up, close to 20 by noon. We detailed the car and set up our chairs, and waited for the judging to begin at 10:00AM. The judging for Mercedes lasted a little less than an hour by a group of three with their clipboards, as they gave us a thorough going over, under, and through our cars.

After that we sat for a while talking to others and, then spent several hours walking the field. Quite a group of cars. We found our President Mike Ziegler with his beautiful Rolls Royce, with the Rolls Royce, Bentley Group. They're

nice but not a Mercedes, just kidding Mike. We then ran into Roger Egolf walking the field and taking in all the great cars.

Prizes were awarded around 2:30PM, with the first place finishers in each group making the drive through to receive their awards around 3:00PM.



We won 3rd place with our 1969 280SL. 2nd place went to Ross Wilson with his 1968 280SL from the Del Val Section. 1st place went to Terry Spaeth with his 1971 280SL from the Connecticut West Chester Section. A good day for the W113 280SL.

After the awards we walked into town for some beverages of choice, and snacks with my cousin and his daughter. (he took a 2nd place with his Porsche). Around 5:00PM we headed home driving up along the Delaware river going back and forth across the river from PA to NJ on several of the old steel bridges before heading inland to go home. The weather was great, and the ride in the Benz made for a great time.

For more info on the New Hope Event, contact Dan Kelly at (su8pack1@gmail.com).

Pocono Raceway IndyCar Day Car Show August 20, 2017 submitted by Brett & Debra Kropf



As recently announced we were again invited with our 2005 E55 AMG to the 2017 IndyCar Car Show at Pocono Raceway on August 20. Unlike last year, which rained out at 3 PM, the weather this year was perfect.



Shortly before 10 AM, we pulled in behind a light teal street rod, and started a line of 6 Mercedes-Benz, mostly our club members.

About 140 cars were in this year's car show and about 100 were Corvettes, 7 were Mercedes-Benz, and the remainder was a very diverse group of everything from old Classic IndyCars, to a Plymouth Superbird, even a Cadillac Hearse!



Sure does look like our president, Mike Ziegler, in that race car! It is Mike Ziegler!

Early afternoon, we roamed through the Pit/Paddock area and found nearly everyone we had written about in our 2016 article. To our delight, everyone remembered us and there were many warm greetings - a testament to the friendliness of the IndyCar people. Last year we got most familiar with some of the driver Will Powers team who won last year, and his wife Liz who gave birth to a child since then. This year, early in the race, Will Power's crew had trouble changing one of the wheels and adjusting a front body panel which cost so many seconds that it put him next to last and more than a lap behind. We figured he was likely done for the day, but not so...

With this day's perfect race conditions, it looked something like NASCAR with the number 2 leader drafting the first place leader and then switching places between turn 2 & 3 with what some believed to be a record number of lead changes. It was looking like whoever was in second place with a lap remaining would take the lead in the last turns to pass the checkered flag as the day's winner. Will Power continued gaining from behind and caught up at least to the leader's lap when a yellow flag came out allowing him to close the space between him and the leaders, while keeping his numeric position. He took

numerous super quick pit stops for only a bit of fuel so that he wouldn't lose his lap. When the green flag returned, it wasn't long before Will was among the top leaders, and climbed all the way to the number 1 position! Some said that coming from more than a lap down to Position 1 hasn't happened in more than 30 years! With 3 laps to go, it was expected that his teammate Josef Newgarden would draft him and take first position, but he could not overtake Power. With just 2 laps to go, Newgarden tried again, but failed to take the lead. The excitement in the stands was so great, nearly all were on our feet while the 2 battled for the winning position between turns 2 & 3. Last year's champion held onto his amazing lead and was again winner of Pocono's ABC 500 on 2017 IndyCar race day at "The Tricky Triangle". Another thrilling day with free Pocono admission in return for showing our 'Benz'!



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

A photograph of a modern dealership building at night. The building has large glass windows and doors. Signs for 'Classic Center', 'PORSCHE', and 'Mercedes-Benz' are visible. Several cars are parked in front of the building.



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