

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Section**

**Mercedes-Benz Club
of America**

MBCA-NEPA.COM



**Shining Star
Winter 2017 Newsletter**

President's Message

I'm pleased to announce that at the general membership meeting held November 9th, the current officers were re-elected for another 2-year term: President - Mike Ziegler, Vice President - Roger Egolf, Secretary - Debbie Egolf, and Treasurer - Jolanta Piekarski. Also approved at that meeting are the following directors: Ron Gabel, Barry Brobst, Brett Kropf, Debra Kropf, Alice Christensen, and our newest director Tom Lindeman. I am thankful that Tom contacted me to volunteer for the Membership Chairman position that we were requesting this past year in our newsletters. Tom jumped right-in and is doing a wonderful job. Our board members have worked well together in 2017 and I look forward to two more years of working with them to bring you fun events for your enjoyment.

The 2018 events selected at the November 9th planning meeting are shown in this newsletter. I'm especially looking forward to the following two events: viewing the private exotic car collection of Don Bernstein in Dunmore who has some of the best cars in the world (in my opinion) as part of the Day Drive May 12th; and the viewing of the spectacular private collection of mounts, including exotic animals from around the world, that were personally hunted by our NEPA member John Frailey who is hosting our NEPA picnic July 21st at his stunning home in Tannersville (the meat from the animals was given to the needy in those countries).

Winter snow and ice is already upon us. 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 the gasoline and protect your engine, gasoline tank, and fuel lines. For those with a 4-matic or AWD, the winter drives may be fun and fortunately safer than many other cars, but the car does have limits, so be careful.

Safe motoring,

Happy New Year!

Mike Ziegler



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[2018 Upcoming Events](#)

Sat Feb 3 - Philadelphia Auto Show - S NJ Section

Thu Mar 15 - Spring Dinner at [Carmel Kitchen and Wine Bar](#) - NEPA Section Event

3750 Hamilton Blvd, Allentown PA 18103

Sat May 12 - Day Drive ending at [Maid-Rite Specialty Foods](#) and see a private exotic car collection - NEPA Section Event

Likely Lehigh Valley to Dunmore, PA

May 15 - 22 - StarFest 2018 in Alabama

******See write-up in separate section below******

Sun Jun 10 - Concours d'Elegance, Hershey, PA

Sat Jun ?? - June Jamboree - Regional N & S NJ

Sat Jul 14 - Deutsche Classic

Sat Jul 21 - Summer Picnic at John & Arlene Frailey's - NEPA Section Event

Tannersville, PA 18360

Sun Aug 5 - Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie PA

Sun Aug 12 - New Hope Car Show

Sun Aug 19 - IndyCar Day Show at [Pocono Raceway](#) - NEPA Section Event

1234 Long Pond Rd, Long Pond, PA 18334

Pocono Raceway is holding their third annual car show during their Annual Indy Race. Our own Debra Kropf wrote a review of their amazing experience at 2016's event, was eBlasted to our membership, and is [reproduced here](#).

Sun Sep 9 - Radnor Hunt C d'Elegance, Malvern, date tentative

Sun Sep 16 - Day Drive ending at Jacobsburg State Park - NEPA Section Event

Sat Sep ?? - Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic at Falkenhorst (John Bleimaier's Estate), Hopewell, NJ - Northern NJ Section Event

Sat Oct 13 - Road Rally - NEPA Section Event

Thu Nov 8, 7:00 PM - Dinner & Planning for 2019 events - NEPA Section Event

at [Starlite Diner in Fogelsville](#), 233 N Route 100, Allentown PA 18106

We will be discussing events for the 2019 calendar year. Bring your ideas and your 2019 planning calendar so we can pick dates that most of you are available to attend

Wed Dec 19 - Christmas/Holiday Dinner at [Melt](#) - NEPA Section Event

For any changes after this newsletter publication, check MBCA-NEPA.COM for the latest information.”

****** May 15~-22 2018 - StarFest 2018 in Alabama ******

First details are in [The Star](#) Jan-Feb 2017 pg 96 quoted here:

"The Alabama section will be hosting StarFest 2018 approximately May 16-22, 2018. We use the term "approximately" because we know from the StarTech 2013 experience that all 300 participants wanted to have a detailed tour of the magnificent Mercedes-Benz U.S. International factory near Birmingham. In 2016 we have hosted over 140 of our members on factory tours. This is the ultimate "tech session."

Even though four Alabama Section members have been trained as tour guides, and MBUSA has graciously agreed to let us use their stretched golf carts, it still will take three to four days to provide our expected 400-600 participants with the expanded tours that we know our members want.

We will start placing those who register earliest on Friday tours. Then we will add Thursday, Wednesday, Tuesday as necessary.

Don't despair, if you get a Tuesday tour. These take most of the morning or afternoon respectively. Since there is no StarTech for 2017, we will have technical programs available at the hotel or the factory's training center for the days other than your tour.

The newly expanded [Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum](#) on the east side of Birmingham has the largest (1700) motorcycle collection and the largest (65+) Lotus race car collection in the world. Their restoration facility with its robotic water jet cutting, CNC machining, and 3D printing can make almost any part that is no longer available. This place is "worth a journey" as the Michelin Green Guide would say.

The [U.S. Space & Rocket Center](#) in nearby Huntsville, features the Apollo Missions to the moon which were developed here. Four of Alabama Section's members were on Werner von Braun's team, and they assist with tours. We will also have several rallye routes of our favorite mountain roads that start right at the hotel.

There is a very favorable rate of \$111/ night for the [Birmingham Hilton Perimeter South](#), which is in a very nice area. We even get our own private parking area with car washing facilities.

Go to [the hotel's web site](#) to see details.

In future, we will cover the Saturday concours around the [Brand Immersion Center](#) (YouTube video), the off-road course at [Barber Motorsports Park](#) and the unimproved forest road drives for the wonderful SUV's. All the ML, GL, GLE, and GLS in the world are built at [MBUS!](#) (YouTube video), so this will be a homecoming for these vehicles.

There will be historic races featuring Mercedes-Benz on Sat-Sun. You can take your own Mercedes-Benz on the Barber track Monday with a skilled instructor at your side. There will be no competition, but rather this will be educational. Autocross competition will be staged in part of the large paddock.

There will also be an "Autobahn Experience" on the 33-degree banking of the [Talladega Superspeedway](#). Here we will utilize the long back straight for acceleration runs."

[GOAL - "Alabama's best, building nothing but the best".](#)

["The best or nothing at all."](#) - Gottlieb Daimler - automobile engineer and inventor

[NEWS](#)

[Meet our new members:](#)

Myrna Bianco of Moscow, PA (2018 GLC)

Bob Faust of Palmerton, PA (2017 Interstate)

Leslie Galacci of S Abington Twp, PA (2016 GLE 450, 2018 GLS 450)
Matthew Markunas of Lewisburg, PA (2018 Interstate)
Artur Nowak of Schnecksville, PA (1998 SLC450, 1973 220Diesel, 2012
GLK350, 2104-C550)
Norbert Swithers of Wilkes-Barre, PA (GLK, a C Class, 450SL (1976))
William West of Wyomissing, PA (2018 Airstream Interstate)
Matthew Williams of Canadensis, PA

**!!!!NEW Membership
Coordinator!!!**

Our new Membership Coordinator is Tom Lindeman. Tom has been a member of our group for nearly two years. He is a retired educator and owner of a 2013 C300 4Matic Mercedes.



He and his wife, Diane, hail from the Hazleton area and have been living in the Whitehall area for the past forty years. Please feel free to contact Tom (lindemantd@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns about your Membership in the MBCA.

Request from Tom for Current Information

Dear Fellow Members;

As the new 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!

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.

Past events:

REPORT OF MBCA NEPA'S 2017 FALL FROLIC CAR RALLY

By Debbie Egolf



Saturday morning September 9th marked the dawn of a beautiful and colorful Fall day as eight carloads of MBCA NEPA's members and friends gathered at Perkins Diner on route 191 (Route 22 and 191) Bethlehem PA in anxious anticipation of a full day of rallying.

After a good breakfast and a brief "Drivers Meeting" newcomers and old timers (*with experience from last year*) were all given their route instructions and, beginning at 10 AM, were sent on their way about two minutes apart. It was not long before all entrants were experienced rallyists.



All participants found their way to the half way point which happened to be at the home of Tim and Debbie Beil (Ron Gabel's daughter) where all were treated to food, beverages and, of course, the ever popular bathroom.

The finish point was at Hops Paddock Restaurant in Allentown PA. The thundering herd of sixteen participants began to arrive by early afternoon. We're happy to report all entrants were able to successfully complete the rally. All present were treated to pizza and non-alcoholic drinks compliments of the club with additional food and drink available on their own.

Debra and Brett Kropf with their friend Dorothea, came in first place. Second place was won by John and Arlene Frailey with their daughter Michelle Miller, and third place was won by Tom and Diane Lindeman. The coveted last place trophy was earned by Barry and Lyne Brobst. All who participated appeared to have had a great day with a nice fall drive through the country, some challenging questions to answer along the route and great fellowship with other club members and friends, several of whom commented on following or passing other Mercedes who waved or beeped their horns in passing. The entire rally was only 52.1 miles long providing plenty of time for fellowship at the midpoint and at the finish while awaiting the final results from our rally master Ron Gabel.

What a good time we all had, and probably no one had more fun than the rally teams who got a bit lost, confused or otherwise mixed up who, at the finish, were quick to explain what went wrong, where they got off track or how they cleverly recovered from their mistake. What a hard act to follow!!!!

We look forward to seeing all of you next year for the third annual Mercedes Club rally. If you haven't yet tried this event, you might want to talk to someone who has.

LET'S SEE YOU ALL AT NEXT YEAR'S RALLY!

**October 14 Day Drive to Grey Towers, Milford, PA
by Barry Brobst**

On a beautiful Saturday, twelve Mercedes left Dunkin Donuts in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania for a day of adventure in the northern area of the Pocono Mountains.



Traveling winding roads through the communities of Pen Argyl and Bangor, the group arrived at the first stop at the Delaware Water Gap Welcome Center.



After a brief stop, the group continued on River Road, a narrow, winding, rolling scenic drive through the State game lands along the Delaware River. Continuing north on Route 209, we arrived in the historic town of Milford, Pennsylvania. The group toured Grey Towers, the summer home of James Pinchot, founder of the USDA Forest Service.



Following the amazing tour of the house and outdoor areas, the group continued on to downtown Milford to the Hotel Fauchere for food and conversation.

Once again, another successful enjoyable drive.

1st Gear

by Robert Taylor of the Keystone Section

On Labor Day weekend, we went to Lime Rock, CT for the Historic Festival. They race old sports cars. On Sunday, they do a car show. The cars were parked around the track. I also met Wayne Carini and my friend Matt Orendac from Hagerty Insurance again. Matt helps with the youth judging program.

I went to the Radnor Hunt Concours on September 11. This year they featured Lancia and the Mercedes 300SL. About 15 kids judged cool cars with me for Hagerty Youth judging. It was the biggest group ever for me. I met Mrs. Marianne MacDunna who still owns 1956 300SL Gullwing that her husband bought new. We also judged a Lancia that had seats made from ostrich hides.



On October 8, my mom and I went to the AACA Hershey Fall Meet. It's the biggest car show in the world. I judged 5 old cars with about 10 other Hagerty Youth judges. My favorites were a 1908 Cadillac and a 1958 BMW Isetta. Afterwards, I had chocolate milk at Hotel Hershey. See you next year.

Otto Christensen's AMG Driving Academy Experience at Laguna Seca, November 2017



NEPA member Otto Christensen attended the AMG Driving Academy for their Basic Training Module in November. It was a great time of year to be in lovely California. He describes his experience:

The weather was perfect, sunny and in the 60s for the experience. We were really happy it didn't rain, although California needed it.

We all met at 7:45 AM for breakfast. There were about 60 attendees from all parts of the United States.

After breakfast and a short introduction, it was off to drive the cars! There were 2 of us to a car with the instructors communicating to us by radio. First, we went out on the skid pad for slide and recovery practice. Then it was ABS braking and lane change practice, followed by timed slalom (auto cross). Then it was time for a 45 minute lunch break.

After lunch we were doing lead and follow on the racetrack, four cars at a time following an instructor in the lead car. At this point you are alone in the car and must wear a helmet.

At the end of the day, there was a timed slalom competition between the 5 groups of 12 people each, where the winner group received some prizes. After that, the instructors gave 'taxi' rides in the GTR and GTS. The day closed with a victory ceremony and farewell at 5PM

All participants got to drive the following AMGs: CLA45, C43, C63S Coupe, E63S, SL63, GTS, GTR

Lacuna Seca is quite an amazing racetrack, with the world's famous corkscrew. The instructors were impressive, all very professional and

enthusiastic and all former podium race car drivers.

The participants came from all over the United States.

I chose this location for the Basic one-day course to combine it with a pleasure trip to see my brother Martin and his family who live in Southern California (he owns AllGermanAuto.com). We reserved a rental Mercedes for the journey, only to find when we arrived that the rental car company did not have one. We were forced to take a Jaguar for the trip south. The cat drove fine, but had very uncomfortable seats.

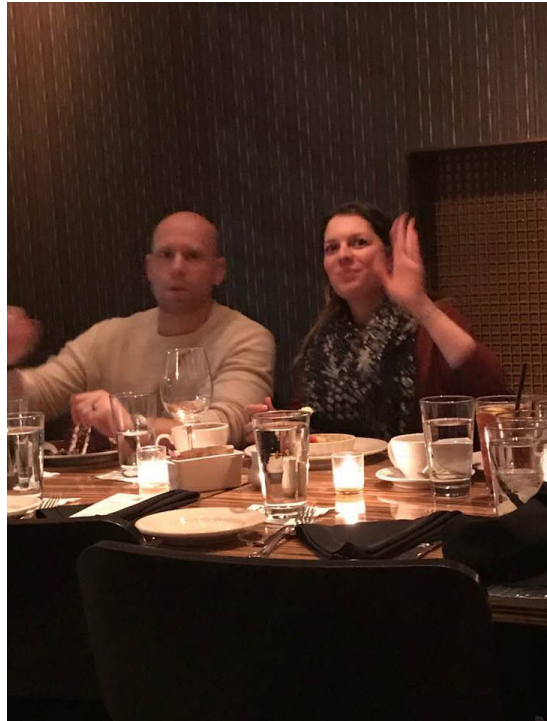
Click the link below to see my actual final lap video. My name is listed as Jens C. <http://www.amgacademy.com/gallery/final-lap-videos?video=13243&event=20171106>

Although a rather pricey event, the adrenaline rush is worth every cent. And it stays in your mind for quite awhile.

NEPA Christmas Party 2017

Thirty-five club members and guests attended our annual holiday party in the Fireside Room of the Blue Grillhouse in Bethlehem on Monday, December 18, 2017.





The attendees included **Joe Grattan**, our Regional Director and new section members **Brooks & Laura Karnes** who were welcomed to their first club event.



We had two attendees who traveled all the way from Georgia, including last year's Member of the Year, **Wesley Wormser**, who is now attending the College of Coastal Georgia and came as a guest of Alice and Otto Christensen, and Margaret Piekarski from Atlanta who was traveling on business and

attended with her parents, Walter and Jolanta Piekarski. Our Section President and his wife, Mike & Nancy Ziegler also traveled a long way to be at the party, coming all the way from their winter home in Florida. Others who attended included **Debra & Brett Kropf**, John & Arlene Frailey, Ron & Elaine Gabel, Tom & Diane Lindeman, Kristian Castellano, Aaron & Helen Newman, Dan & Francie Kelly, Charles & Adele Clemmer, Bob & Cookie Hughes, Sam & Lois Giambler, Barry & Lyne Brobst and Roger & Debbie Egolf.

Our menu consisted of a choice of market green salad, Caesar salad, beer battered kielbasa bites or a creamy potato soup. The main course choices included garlic encrusted French chicken, broiled twin filet mignon, fresh grilled salmon filet, broiled prime Berkshire pork chop, or vegetable penne pasta. The choices for dessert consisted of chocolate layer cake, crème brulee, or ice cream. We had mashed potatoes and asparagus as an extra for each table to make our meal complete. Plus each person received a cocktail compliment from our club.



Our newsletter editor **Alice Christensen** received this year's well-deserved Member of the Year award. Congratulations Alice! We also want to thank our rally coordinator **Ron Gabel**, who gave a very interesting talk about how a road rally is planned, and what it takes to make it successful. Many of us had no idea how much work goes into planning those events. Thank you Ron for all of the work you did behind the scenes!



Ten-Year Membership Anniversary Pins were presented to Members **Bob and Cookie Hughes** and **Chuck and Adele Clemmer** by Membership Coordinator **Tom Lindeman**.

We want to thank the Blue Grillhouse for their excellent food and service. Next year's holiday party will be held at Melt at the Promenade Shops at Saucon Valley in Center Valley, another Paxos Restaurant, the owner of the Blue Grillhouse. We hope to see many of you there next year.

Debbie Egolf, secretary

Ongoing items from previous newsletters:

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. At least two of our members have applied for and received their customized plate, and 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:

We have started 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-Tags:

Professionally-produced name-tags are a great way to display your pride in membership and introduce yourself to other members at Club events.

Name-tags are available for purchase by Members and Associate Members.

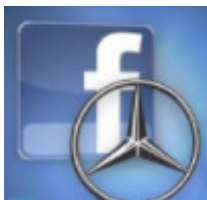
For details and to order your personalized tags, please **contact Membership Coordinator Tom Lindeman at 610-349-9597 or lindemantd@gmail.com**

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 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.



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

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