

MBCA NEPA Winter 2018 Newsletter

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Section**

**Mercedes-Benz Club
of America**

MBCA-NEPA.COM



**Shining Star
Winter 2018 Newsletter**

President's Message

Many of our 2019 events were selected at the November 8th General Membership Planning Meeting and are shown in this newsletter. At that meeting, I was glad that Lois Giamber volunteered to have our NEPA picnic at their home, probably in June. Also at the meeting, Kristian Castellano volunteered to be the Photographer for our NEPA club. Thank you Lois & Kristian.

Snow arrived this season with a vengeance, even before winter officially started on the calendar. 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.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mike Ziegler



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Upcoming Events

2018 Christmas/Holiday Dinner

Wed Dec 19

NEPA Section Event

Christmas/Holiday Dinner at [Blue Grillhouse](#) - MBCA-

Hello everyone! Once again we are meeting at Blue Grillhouse for our Christmas party December 19 which is on Wednesday. The phone number is 610-691-8400 and the address is 4431 Easton Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18020 (Route 33). Cocktails

will be served from 6 PM to 7 PM and dinner will be served at 7 PM. The club will be paying for part of the meal, gratuity and tax, one soda or alcoholic drink per member and associate member, but if you want a second drink, it will go on your tab. The price for member or associate member is \$50.00 each. If you bring a friend it will cost \$100.00. But I do know the desserts will be either dark chocolate truffle cake, peaches and cream and last but not least the classic creme Brulé. Food at the Blue Grillhouse is delicious and the service is excellent. The menu will be out the Sunday before the party on Wednesday, December 19 on their website which is www.opentable.com/blue-grillhouse if you'd like to see what we will be having to eat.

For those of us who have been to Blue - we are going to be in The Fireplace room which is limited to 35 people.

Please **RSVP by December 9th to Deborah Egolf at egolf2000@yahoo.com** or call me at 610-751-7865 to make a reservation. Checks made out to: NEPA-MBCA and mailed by December 9th to Jolanta Piekarski, 1412 Stark Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Blue Grillhouse, 4431 Easton Ave, Bethlehem PA 18020 610-691-8400 www.bluegrillhouse.com

Thank you,

Debbie Egolf

Guest Speaker: Our Newsletter Editor, Alice Christensen, as a certified Yoga Instructor, will give a short talk after dinner about what yoga is and suggest some breathing exercises and stretches drivers can do before hitting the road, while driving!, and during rest stops!

2019 Upcoming Events

Sat Feb 9 8AM-10PM - Philadelphia Auto Show

Free Tickets (with \$5 donation to go to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) - Meet at top of stars at 7:45 AM - entering at Market Street entrance to Convention Center (near Dunkin' Donuts). 8 AM - 9 AM Mercedes Benz hosting us at their display area. South Jersey Section is coordinating this event.

Thu Feb 21 7:30 PM - 'The Illusionist' at the historic State Theatre, Easton, PA *
(see write-up in the following section)

Fri Mar 1 7:30 PM - 'The Sound of Music' at the historic State Theatre, Easton, PA * (see write-up in the following section)

Thu Apr 11 6PM NEPA - Spring Dinner

Sat May 18 - NEPA Day Drive Kauffman's Chicken Ranch

Sun June 9 9AM-4PM - Hershey Concours d'Elegance

Sat Jun? - June Jamboree, Riverdale, NJ

Sat Jun ? 1PM-5PM - Summer Picnic at Lois Giamber's home, Springtown, PA - NEPA Section Event

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

Sun Aug 4 8AM-4PM - Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie PA

Sun Aug 11 - New Hope Car Show

Sun Aug 18 - IndyCar Day Show at [Pocono Raceway](#) - NEPA Section Event

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

Sun Sep 8 9AM-4PM - Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

Sun Sep 15 - Day Drive - NEPA Section Event

Thu Oct 10 6PM - NEPA Planning Meeting Election

Sat Oct 12 - Road Rally - NEPA Section Event (tentative date)

Thu Dec 19 6PM - Christmas/Holiday Party

Upcoming **NEPA Section board meetings** are *tentatively* scheduled for the following dates in **2019**:

Thu, March 14 7PM-9PM,

Tue, June 11 7PM-9PM,

Mon, September 9 7PM-9PM and

Tue, December 10 7PM-9PM.

* February, March State Theatre Event in Easton, PA

At the Planning meeting, it was decided an event to the historic State Theatre in Easton would be desired to see The Illusionist and The Sound of Music late February/early March. Ron & Elaine Gabel have season tickets to the State Theatre and will be happy to answer any questions regarding the theatre, directions, parking or nearby restaurants.

The dates are February 21st at 7:30pm for The Illusionist and March 1st at 7:30pm for The Sound of Music. Tickets are \$74.50 including fees (\$67.50 balcony seat). Send your check asap made payable to NEPA-MBCA and mailed to Jolanta Piekarski, 1412 Stark Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Mark on the check which play you will be attending. <http://statetheatre.org/> An optional dinner gathering before the show at a restaurant within walking distance of the Theatre will be discussed with those who would be attending the play. Call Ron Gabel [610-417-2053](tel:610-417-2053) if you have any questions.

Mike Ziegler

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

NEWS

Meet our new members:

Thomas Bieling of Estero, FL
Brandon Obaza of Cresco, PA
James Ralph III of Bethlehem, PA
Stanley Wielgopolski and Danielle Wielgopolski (associate member) of White Haven,
PA (2012-E350 4MATIC)

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.*

Tom Lindeman

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. Would you please fill out this short 6 question survey regarding your preferences by clicking the below link.

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

Tom Lindeman

Past events:

**Pocono Raceway's 2018 IndyCar Day Car Show report
August 19, 2018**

Our 3rd year at Pocono IndyCar Day began with us ready for our next adventure. We were still recovering from both a broken car and broken foot from our across the country adventure, and we were registered to bring our 2005 E55 AMG, but unfortunately the full amount of the damage done by the massive pothole we hit in Salt Lake City UT had not been determined or repaired. We hadn't considered the 238,000 mile GL450 a sport/show car, but didn't want to miss out on a day we have come to really look forward to. So... time for the GL to get shined up for the show. Brett spent a day detailing and she looked beautiful! Brett printed up a windshield card with the extensive options list and a couple photos of what it effortlessly tows (Kubota loader/backhoe on a tandem trailer, and a 31' travel trailer).

We again entered the paddock and joined more than 100 Corvettes, an assortment including antiques, classic hotrods, dirt racers, and newer muscle cars, and about 6 Mercedes. Our Carneol Red GL450 SUV attracted some very positive comments including "that is the ultimate car of my dreams, currently I only own a Jeep". In addition to the windshield card, Brett also printed out an intro of the [Mercedes-Benz Rescue Assist system](#) that saves lives, and hung it around the gas cap with the fuel filler door open and the [Rescue Assist](#) QR Code decal clearly in view. Many people were intrigued to learn about [Rescue Assist](#) and some were even Mercedes owners who didn't know about the free retrofit offer for any Mercedes-Benz as old as 1990.

Brett and I wandered through the Paddock and met up with MBCA-NEPA President Mike Ziegler. Together we headed to the pits to watch the teams prepping for the race, and I wondered if I would see a familiar face among the crew teams. As we approached 2 time Pocono Champion Will Powers Verizon team, Don Textor - the gearbox man recognized us immediately and came over for a handshake and hug. They were just about to roll the Indy Cars out onto the track. Will had won pole position and the team was looking ready to race.

We went through the tunnel under the track to our seats, excited for the ABC Supply

500 to begin. (Next year, we want to try to register our club members together so our seats are close to each other.)

The race began and before the first lap was complete there were 2 cars who bumped out of turn 3 and we had a yellow flag. Then a few laps later the green flag returned and within that lap barreling into the second turn, the Lucas driver Robert Wickens tapped a rear tire of Ryan Hunter-Reay's car and spun him out, but Wickens' car launched over Hunter-Reay's and caught the fence sending it rotating back over Hunter-Reay's - cracking his roll bar and causing enough disruption to cause 3 other drivers to collide. The audience fell silent as the emergency vehicles rushed to the scene and the red flag was waved. Wickens' car tore a large hole into the tall safety fence. We could tell there were injuries, but how bad was yet to be determined. We watched and waited silently for movement from the injured drivers that was shown on the large screens as each driver was carefully extracted from their cars, until the last driver was removed. Each time a driver was removed and the announcer stated so, there was an applause from the stands. The announcer made mention of how no one was leaving the stands and how everyone was concerned for every driver's condition. It didn't matter who your favorite driver was, it only mattered that all the drivers were okay.

The race was stopped for more than 2 hours with the crews re-starting the cars every 15 minutes to keep the engines warm and ready to race. With 190 laps yet to go it was looking like this was going to be a very long day. Fortunately, when the green flag returned, I don't recall any other yellow or red flag before the checkered flag. Alexander Rossi won the race, ahead of two time IndyCar at Pocono champion Will Powers in an exciting and safe finish.



In this age of social media, #getwellwickens became a heartfelt trending hash tag as well-wishes poured in. Debra has seen updates on Robert Wickens' Instagram page and as of November, he is still on the recovery path after extensive injuries including to his spinal cord and is paraplegic, yet he has been continually working at attempting to recover more motion. He has a remarkable positive spirit that he shows often to his Instagram followers.

Everyday as we drive our Mercedes on this nation's roadways, never reaching speeds that these races do, we are thankful for all the effort Mercedes-Benz puts into the safety of our vehicles!

We had a day filled with excitement, suspense, trepidation, heartfelt concern, and a new respect for an intense sport. We're still ultimately very grateful for the free tickets earned by participating in Pocono Raceway's IndyCar Day Car Show for the third time... To become part of a amazing event that can leave the stands of a track filled with thousands of people hushed and then cheering for each driver's safety as everyone was pulling for each and every driver to have a safe and amazing day.

Debra Kropf

MBCA-NEPA Section Fall Day Drive 2018

On Sunday, September 16th, seventeen club members and guests in nine cars participated in our fall day drive to the Jacobsburg National Historic District. We started the day with breakfast at the Fogelsville Dunkin Donuts followed by lunch at a restaurant close to the Jacobsburg site. The Jacobsburg Historical Society was given much of the site by Mary Henry, the last of the famous Henry family, who lived in the Henry Philadelphia style Mansion built in 1832 by John Joseph Henry. The history of the Henry family in Pennsylvania reads like a "who's who" of early American patriots. The family was represented in many of our country's early military actions. Henrys served in Braddock's campaign against the French in 1755, for the British army in Pennsylvania and in 1758 with General Forbes in his expedition against Fort Duquesne. They served as members of the Continental army, the Continental Congress and the Colonial Pennsylvania assembly prior to and after the Revolutionary War. They were volunteer officers of the First Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment, marched with Benedict Arnold to Quebec and served

both the Union army and navy in the Civil War.

The family began its gun making business in Lancaster Pennsylvania in 1752, quickly becoming one of the larger manufacturers of firearms in that area. Descendants of the Henry family expanded its gun making activities into the Nazareth, Philadelphia, Jacobsburg and Boulton Pennsylvania areas. The Jacobsburg factory was the largest supplier of trade guns for John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, the largest American business enterprise of its time.

The MBCA-NEPA members were provided with a brief VIP tour of the 50-acre Henry site, The Henry firearms museum, the Henry Mansion with all the original furnishings and the original Nicholas Hawk gun shop. Volunteers in period clothing provided discussion concerning the famous family and its treasures.

Barry Brobst planned the drive and Ron Gabel arranged the tour of the Historic District. The weather that day was gorgeous, and a fun day was had by all. This was a tour everyone enjoyed, and many expressed an interest in returning for a longer visit in the future. For interested members unable to attend this event, or members wishing to return, the Historical Society will hold its very special "Christmas at Boulton" open house Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 11 AM to 4 PM and Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 12 PM to 4 PM. The 1832 John Joseph Henry house will be beautifully decorated with Henry family decorations along with guides and singers in period clothing. The entire site will be open for visitors to tour. The site is located just west of the route 33 Belfast exit north of route 22.

Our club made a cash donation to the Historical Society for providing us with the VIP tour.

Ron Gabel



The Henry Mansion at Jacobsburg



Nine Mercedes-Benz owner vehicles at Jacobsburg Historical Society

MBCA-NEPA Fall Road Rally

Saturday, October 13th, fifteen club members and guests in seven cars participated in our Fall Country View Road Rally. This rally was planned to be shorter in time and length than our previous rallies to encourage more members to attend. The day started with breakfast at the Starlite Diner on Route 100 in Fogelsville ending with lunch at the New Tripoli Diner on Route 309. Everyone finished the rally, and all seemed to enjoy the day's challenges. Opinion seemed to favor the shorter approximately thirty-mile rally. The winners of the rally in first place were Debra and Brett Kropf who were accompanied by their friend Dorothea Beverley, 2nd place were

Stanley and Luke Wielgopolski and 3rd place were Tom and Diane Lindeman. Good fellowship and a good time were had by all, consider joining us for our upcoming 2019 Fall rally.

One of the rally questions – *"Where does the cow jump over the moon?"*





Several Road Rally Attendees with their cars and navigators. From the left: Luke and Stan Wielgopolski (2nd place), Ron & Elaine Gabel, Debbie & Roger Egolf, and Tom & Diane Lindeman (3rd place). Debra & Brett Kropf (not pictured) won 1st place.

[MBCA-NEPA Section Annual Planning Meeting](#)

The MBCA-NEPA Section Annual Planning Meeting was held November 8, at the Starlite Diner in Fogelsville, PA. Fourteen members assembled, enjoyed dinner and a cocktail, then discussed and planned events for the upcoming year. President Mike Ziegler presented the agenda and referenced the current-year calendar of events as a guide for planning the 2019 events calendar. Members and friends can attend a minimum of sixteen events planned for the coming year, including auto shows, dinners, picnics, an IndyCar race, day drive events, a Mercedes “tech session”, museum visits, a road rally and a year-end party, providing ample and varied opportunities for members to attend and enjoy the camaraderie of the Club. The 2019 Calendar will be available in this newsletter. Please monitor your e-mail for quarterly newsletter updates and “e-blast” breaking news communications. Hope to see everyone at the 2019 Club activities and events!

Tom Lindeman



November 8 Planning Meeting attendees at the Startlite Diner. From left front and around: Elaine & Ron Gabel, Tom Lindeman, Roger Egolf, Jolanta & Walter Piekarski, Kristian Castellano (partly hidden), Mike Ziegler, Barry Brobst, Sam & Lois Giamber, Debra & Brett Kropf (Alice Christensen, Newsletter Editor, behind the camera)

Ongoing Items

Technical Advisor Position for NEPA Section:

I am happy to announce a recently added **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 M-Th 8:30 AM-noon, 1 PM - 4 PM (he may have to call you back).

[610-865-4255](tel:610-865-4255)

www.WaltersMercedesServices.com

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](tel:610-349-9597) and I will be happy to assist!

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 Linderman 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 September 1st for Fall issue, December 1st for the Winter issue, March 1st for the Spring issue, and June 1st for the Summer 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. 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:

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, 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 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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www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA



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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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