

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Section**

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

MBCA-NEPA.COM



**Shining Star
Spring 2020 Newsletter**

President's Message

Spring is here! And that means you'll be able to take that collector car, antique car, or your newer "baby" out of the garage for a drive (if you haven't yet during the mild winter we had), especially to our NEPA Day Drive on Saturday May 16th. As a safety precaution due to COVID-19 we are canceling the April 16th Spring Dinner this year. For a change of pace, our NEPA picnic on Saturday June 20th will be held in a park this year. Invite another Mercedes Benz owner to an event. They may then want to join the club to continue to enjoy the camaraderie and the events. When a member you refer joins, you will get an additional month added to your membership. See more details on these events in this newsletter and future eblasts. I look forward to seeing you at an event.

Happy and safe motoring,

Mike Ziegler



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Upcoming Events

2020 Events

Thu, Apr 16 | 6PM | NEPA Spring Dinner -- Cancelled due to COVID-19

Sat, May 16 | | NEPA Day Drive -- details below

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

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

Sat, Jun 20 | 1PM-5PM | NEPA picnic - Whitehall Park Pavillion #2

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

Sun, Aug 2 | 8AM-4PM | **Das Awkscht Fescht, 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 13 | 9AM-4PM | **Radnor Hunt concours d'Elegance**

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**

SPRING 2020 DAY DRIVE

May 16, 2020 the MBCA-NEPA will have its spring day drive heading east through back roads to tour [Thomas Edison National Historic Park](#). Most of our previous drives were in the western direction, so this will be an opportunity to see new landscape and if you know anything about New Jersey, you'll see a more primitive lifestyle.

The park has both Edison's laboratory and private residence Glenmont Estate. I understand from numerous friends who have visited the site that it's very interesting and informative. I look forward to planning this trip, and I hope you will join us on the 16th of May.

More details, such as start time and meeting place will be included in a future eBlast. Mark your calendars. These are fun.

Barry Brobst

Drive Coordinator

NEPA 2020 Picnic



This year we are having our picnic outside at the [South Whitehall Park Pavilion #2](#). It is a beautiful park. The sun should be shining (I hope). We will be in an outdoor setting. The lawns are taken care of by South Whitehall Township. They're in the process of rebuilding the bathrooms and the park. They have been making changes down there for the better. If you'd like to go fishing, bring your fishing pole. You can go out to the stream by walking a short distance, not too far from the pavilion. Tables will be set up under the pavilion and we will have shade because the pavilion has a roof, of course. We will ask you to RSVP closer to the date so we know how many will attend. Let me know what you are bringing or email me at egolf2000@yahoo.com by June 15th. It is very close to Roger and Debbie's home so if the bathrooms aren't completed you're welcome to use ours. We have a covered bridge to walk to and a parking lot for our Mercedes'.

We are thinking of catering it this year from a source, such as Panera Bread (not cast in concrete). I will find out before the picnic if there is a charcoal grill

on which we could cook some hamburgers and hotdogs. We do ask that desserts are made and brought to the picnic. We will make sure we have enough food and sweets. If you have a specialty you like to make, such as a macaroni salad, potato salad, desert, etc., we welcome that.

Thank you ever so much and keep praying that this virus will go away before June.

Debbie Egolf, secretary

News

Members' Corner

Tom Lindeman

MBCA NE Pennsylvania Section Membership Coordinator

Meet our new members:

Michael McCormac of Reading, PA (2019 E 450 4MATIC Coupe)

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)

Operation Recovery

“Operation Recovery” is underway! This is an initiative developed by our National office to find and reinstate members who have not renewed their membership, causing it to expire. Current Board members will be personally contacting our “lost” members and encouraging them to renew their membership.

This is also a good reminder for current members to **renew their membership**- either online through the MBCA.org portal or by calling MBCA National directly at 800-637-2360. There are annual renewal options, as well as multi-year options available. **Don’t let your membership lapse so you can continue to enjoy the benefits of being a member of the MBCA!!!**

Current Members-Remember that when you refer a potential member for membership and the person joins the MBCA, ***you receive an additional free month of membership for each new member you refer.*** There are probably family members, co-workers, and other social friends who are enjoying the Mercedes Benz driving experience. Encourage them to join our Club and Section to enjoy the full complement of **fun driving and social activities** our Section plans each year!

Spotlight on NEPA Board Members

In this new section, we will be spotlighting our NEPA board members, with information such as their biographies, awards, hobbies, and more.

For our first addition, we have chosen our Ron Gabel, longtime NEPA member and also our NEPA Road Rally Master Board Member.



Ron has been a member of our NEPA Section since 1995 and has served on our NEPA Board for many years. Ron was born in Allentown, PA, and is the father of three children, Debra, Stacy** and Jeffrey. Ron attended Pennsylvania State University and is a certified electrical and electronic manufacturing engineer. He has been showcased in 35 editions of Who's Who, including Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Science and Engineering and Who's Who in the World. He also received the NEPA Member of the Year Award in 1997-1998 and in 2012.

Ron was also involved with the Sports Car Club of America in the 50's, he made and ran rallies with the Warhampton Sports Car Club, The Springtown Hill climbs, the Lake Naomi Ice races and Cumberland and Lime Rock SCCA races.

(**Most Recently, at the 21st Lehigh Valley Music Awards March 1, 2020 the big winner on that night was Stacy Gabel, who took home five awards: Outstanding Song ("Straight to Voicemail"), Outstanding Video, Outstanding Singer-Songwriter and Outstanding All-Around Performer (from both the Industry and fan voters). <http://www.stacygabel.com>

The following is excerpted from his 2019 Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award Press Release.

Ron recently received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

A retired telecommunications executive, Mr. Gabel worked in the field for 40 years, beginning as a summer reporter and feature writer for Call-Chronicle

Newspapers and concluding his career as a senior engineer with Lucent Technologies. Throughout his career, he also worked for such organizations as AT&T, Bell Laboratories and Western Electric, served as a consulting expert for James D. Julia Inc. Auctions and Man-At-Arms Magazine, and was advisor for the Lehigh County Department of Human Services, among numerous other roles.

A member of several professional societies throughout his career, Mr. Gabel was very active with the Lehigh Valley chapter of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers. Serving as president, the organization had become number one in the nation. He was also active with the Telephone Pioneers of America and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and a member and past president of dozens of avocational organizations, such as the American Society of Arms Collectors, the National Kentucky Rifle Association, the Upper Lehigh Lion's Club and the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

Mr. Gabel's tenure was also recognized numerous times with such honors as a Citation from U.S. Congressman Don Ritter, a President's Award from the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, and several Outstanding Service Awards, among others. A speaker in his field, he has presented at various conferences for organizations such as the American Society for Quality Control and Lehigh University. Furthermore, he was very involved in his local community where he spent time with the St. James Lutheran Church Council and the St. James Lutheran Church Luther League. He was also Commander of the local United States Power Squadron, and a member of United Way as well as various other organizations that had special meaning to him.

Writing extensively in many professional journals, including the Journal of Antiques and Collectibles, Mr. Gabel has also contributed numerous articles for the Pennsylvania Antique Arms Collectors Association's The Bugle, contributed articles in the Call Chronicle and Morning Call, and was featured on Channel 39's "History Detectives" program, Channel 69's "Out in the Open TV" program, and the Channel 69 series on "Dixon's Annual Gunmakers Fair." Mr. Gabel was a newsletter editor for the National Kentucky Rifle Association for 40 years and editor for the Pennsylvania Antique Arms Collectors Association's The Bugle newsletter. He is the co-author of "Work Simplification by Motion Economy Handbook" written for Western Electric Company in 1982.

In recognition of outstanding contributions to his profession and the Marquis Who's Who community, Ronald G. Gabel has been featured on the Albert

Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement website. Please visit www.ltachievers.com for more information about this honor.

Technical Feature

Member Otto Christensen' 280SL Project Restore

Back in NJ in the year 2000 Otto Christensen bought a 1968 280SL, put up a big tent garage in his wooded backyard in New Jersey and proceeded to replace the original engine with an M119 engine, sourced from a totaled 400E. That was one project. The car was very drivable.

Fast forward to the present time in Pennsylvania where now he has a large Pole Barn Building to house his latest project, which is a complete restoration of that same 280SL. Due to improper work done to the body in Germany, most likely for a quick fix-up to sell to the previous owner, the entire front end of the car needed to be replaced. During this restoration, he is replacing the rear differential with a differential from a W108, changing the ratio from 1:3.92 to 1:3.26 limited slip in order to better suit the V8 engine. The rear differential and driver's side axle were shipped to a restoration shop for reconditioning. Since the car is already modified, he does not have to follow original specifications but can make modifications and install stainless steel brake lines, etc.

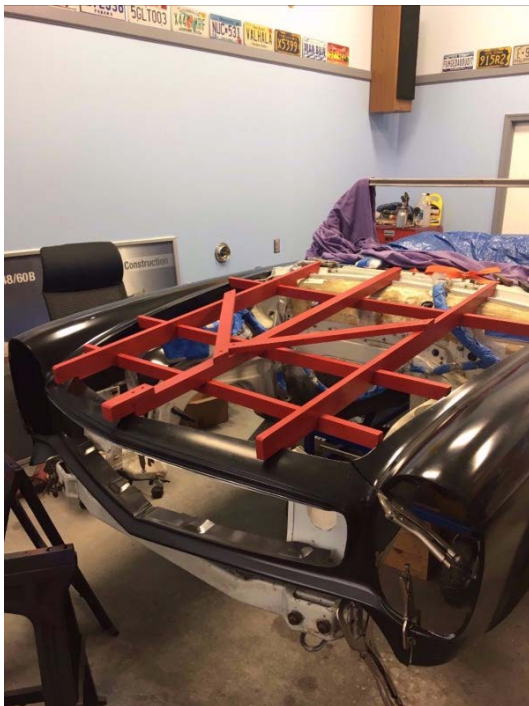
Pictures of the original car are shown below along with some of the steps taken as the restoration proceeds.



Pictured above is the 280SL prior to current restoration project



Shown above on left: Many of the parts were sent out for electroplating. Above on right: The cooling pipe for the rear differential had to be re-routed to fit the W113.



Above left: Since this is a hand-built car, a lot of panel fitting is involved, so a template was made in order to get the hood opening correct. Above right: Stainless brake lines were made to replace the original steel lines.



Above left: All parts were bead-blasted, painted, and reassembled with new bushings, etc. Above right: Fitting the hood for testing before final welding.

Members: Submit your car project articles to MBCA-NEPA Newsletter Editor Alice Christensen achristensen@comcast.net for possible future submission in our newsletter

Get Answers to Your Technical Questions

If you have a technical question (s), submit them to NEPA Newsletter Editor [Alice Christensen](#) who will forward them to Walter Piekarski, our Technical Advisor for possible publishing in a future newsletter.

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](tel:610-865-4255) (he may have to call you back). You can visit his web site at: 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.

You can also connect by telephone at [\(800\) 587-1541](tel:8005871541).

*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 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)

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.

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 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 (also notify editor if you want the associate member to receive emailed newsletters and eBlasts), or email the information to [Tom Lindeman](mailto: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.

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

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 for possible inclusion on our website.



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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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