

**Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Section**

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

[MBCA-NEPA.COM](http://MBCA-NEPA.COM)



**Shining Star  
Summer 2020 Newsletter**

***President's Message***

Hope you and your family are well.

Spring was a tough time for car clubs when most events were cancelled due to COVID-19. Summer is also going to be tough for car clubs with most car shows our club participates in being cancelled when we were still in the red & yellow: June Jamboree, Deutshe Classic, Das Awkscht Fescht, and Radnor Hunt. So far, New Hope Auto Show is still planning on having their event but it will be only one day, Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> (instead of 2 days with MB club on Sunday). They state on their website that it won't look anything like their usual show.

Hopefully now that we are in the Governor's green, we will be able to drive our cars more and meet with friends. We have 2 driving events scheduled: Fall Drive September 20 and a Road Rally October 3rd. We would like to know if you would like to attend. For those who would like to attend, any suggestions you have for these events and should we meet at a restaurant before and after like in the past? Let either the Rally Master, Driving Events Coordinator, or me know.

Look forward to seeing you at a future event,

***Mike Ziegler***



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### **News including:**

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- **Technical Questions answered**
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Ongoing items including: Airbag Recall, Personalized License Plates available, Associate Members emails, MBCA Car Flags for sale, Name Badges, Free Classified Ads, MBCA Northeastern PA Section Logo Clothing Available!, Survey Request, Membership Renewal Reminder, Pictures of events needed for our website

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## Upcoming Events

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## 2020 Events

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**Sat, Jun 20** | 1PM-5PM | **NEPA picnic - Cancelled for 2020**

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**Sat, Jul 11** | 8AM-4PM | **Deutsch Classic, Oley (NEPA/Keystone) - Cancelled for 2020**

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**Sun, Aug 2** | 8AM-4PM | **Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie (NEPA) - Cancelled for 2020**

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**Sat, Aug 8** | 8AM-4PM | **New Hope Car Show, New Hope, PA (Del Val Section) - Note Date Change**

visit the web site <http://www.newhopeautoshow.com> for information as it becomes available... the site is still being updated. However, there are some details under the Registration tab.

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**Tue, Sep 1** | 7PM-9PM | **NEPA Board Meeting**

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**Sun, Sep 13** | 9AM-4PM | **Radnor Hunt concours d'Elegance - Cancelled for 2020**

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**Sun, Sep 20** | | **NEPA Day Drive**

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**Sat, Sep ?** | | **NNJ/SNJ Picnic Bleimeier's Hopewell NJ**

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**Sat, Oct 3** | | **NEPA Road Rally**

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**Thu, Oct 15** | 6 PM | **NEPA Planning Meeting, Starlite Diner, Foglesville, PA**

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**Thu, Oct 15** | 8:45 PM | **NEPA Board Meeting**

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**Thu, Dec 17** | 6:00PM | **NEPA Christmas/Holiday Party**

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Please check [MBCA-NEPA.COM](http://MBCA-NEPA.COM) for updates after this newsletter publication.

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## News

### [Mercedes Benz Channel on You-Tube](#)

Click [here](#) to view the 11 minute 49 second video **[Exploring the Holy Halls of Mercedes Benz](#)**

We thought you might enjoy watching the exciting MB channel while waiting for the country to open back up from the Corona Virus, in lieu of our fun activities.

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## [Join us on Facebook](#)



Please visit and join our Facebook page. Once accepted you can post pictures of your cars, join member discussions on various Mercedes topics, and ask questions.

Click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA/>

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### **Members' Corner**

Tom Lindeman

MBCA NE Pennsylvania Section Membership Coordinator

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### **Meet our new members:**

Milan Melicharek of Tamaqua, PA (2006 CLK500)

Edward Butz of Orefield, PA

William Golden of Scranton, PA

Howard Williams of Muncy, PA (2018 AMG C43 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](mailto:achristensen@comcast.net))

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### **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!

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## Looking for Social Media Coordinator

We are looking for A Social Media Coordinator to join our team to promote our club on the various social media platforms out there, such as Instagram, Twitter, etc. to help generate fresh content, engage with our followers, and create an inviting environment to grow membership.

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## Technical Feature

### **Driveway Mechanic: How to Stretch a Soft Top**

**by Daniel Kelly, Northeastern Pennsylvania Section**

(Originally published in the July/August issue of StarTech 1987 Question & Answer article)



## Driveway Mechanic: How To Stretch A Soft Top

by Daniel Kelly, Northeastern Pennsylvania Section

*A question in our StarTech 1987 Question & Answer article in the July/August issue concerned stretching an old convertible top back into shape. Here's one member's solution:*

**W**hen I bought my 280SL in 1982, the soft top had been in the well for at least six years. I couldn't even straighten the top section, let alone latch it at the windshield or at the rear.

To cure this, I removed the entire top assembly and made a rack to gradually stretch it back into shape. Materials included 2x4's, a U-clamp, 25 ft of single strand wire, 3 turnbuckles, 2 pieces of 1/4x1x3" flat steel, 4 6x50-mm bolts and 3 4" eye-bolts.

After you've built the rig and mounted your top on it, measure a good soft top

across the top center from the windshield to the rear. Every day or two, make a few turns on the turnbuckle, and you'll eventually stretch the top back into shape. This took about six weeks for me, but it works, and I've had no problems since.



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.

### 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](http://www.WaltersMercedesServices.com)

Mike Ziegler

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### 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](mailto:businessoutfitters@landsend.com).

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

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:achristensen@comcast.net))

Tom Lindeman

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### **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

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### **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

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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 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](http://mbusa.com/mercedes/recall).

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### **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](http://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>



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### **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.

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### **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](http://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).

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### **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](mailto: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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### 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

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nepa.mbca@gmail.com)

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