

**Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Section**

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

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



**Shining Star  
Winter 2020 Newsletter**

***President's Message***

We were glad to get together for our Fall Road Rally to see our club friends in person and enjoy a nice route selected by our Rally Master Ron Gabel.

At the Zoom 2021 Planning meeting held in October, it was decided not to meet for a Spring dinner. The 2021 events schedule are included in this newsletter.

We are looking for someone to plan a Day Drive May 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact me for more information.

We would like to have a 2021 picnic and are looking for someone to host it at their home or business. We do not have a date selected for the picnic; we will work with the host on the date. Contact me for more information.

Hopefully 2021 will be a year to get together more often to enjoy the club comradery of events.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year!

Stay safe,

***Mike Ziegler***



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***In this Issue:***

[UpComing 2021 Events](#)

**See notes following 2021 events. We are hoping for a Day Drive Volunteer for our Spring Drive and a host for our summer picnic**

### **News including:**

- **New NEPA Board Member - Christina Cimino**
- **Welcome to newest NEPA sponsor - Hagerty Insurance**
- [Mercedes Benz Channel](#) on YouTube.com
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- **Technical Questions answered**
- **Visit our Facebook Page**

### **Past Events:**

- **NEPA Fall Road Rally**
- **NNJ/ SSJ Annual Picnic Falconhurst**

On Going 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, Request from the Advertising Coordinator, Technical Advisor for NEPA Section, Request from our Membership Coordinator, Event Attendance Book, Request from the Advertising Coordinator, Renew your Membership/Sign up new Members

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## **Upcoming Events**

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## **2021 Events**

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**Tue, Mar 9 | 7PM-9PM | NEPA Board Meeting ZOOM**

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**April | | Spring Dinner (Meeting) Cancelled**

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**Sat, May 15 | | NEPA Day Drive \* see note (1) below**

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**Tue, Jun 15 | 7PM-9PM | NEPA Board Meeting Jolanta's Home, Bethlehem**

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**Sat, Jun 19 | | June Jamboree, Florham Park, NJ (NNJ Section)**

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**Sat, Jul 10 | 8AM-4PM | Deutsche Classic, Oley (NEPA/Keystone Section)**

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**Sun, Aug 8 | 8AM-4PM | NEPA Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie**

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**Sun, Aug ? | 8AM-4PM | New Hope Car Show (Del Val Section)**

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**Tue, Sep 7 | 7PM-9PM | NEPA Board Meeting, Jolanta's Home, Bethlehem**

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**Sat, Sep 11 | | Regional, NNJ/SNJ Picnic, Bleiemaier's, Hopewell, NJ**

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**Sun Sep 19 | | NEPA Day Drive, Barry Brobst**

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**Sat, Oct 2 | | NEPA Road Rally, Ron Gabel**

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**Thu, Oct 14 | 6PM-7PM | NEPA Planning Meeting/ Election (?Starlite, Fogelsville)**

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**Thu, Oct 14 | 8:45PM | NEPA Board Meeting (?Starlite, Fogelsville)**

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**Sat, Nov ? | | NEPA Tech Session, Masano's MB, Reading (Alice & Otto)**

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**Tue, Dec 21 | 6PM/7PM | NEPA Christmas/Holiday Party (6P cocktails; 7P dinner)**

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**Sun ? | 8AM-12PM | NEPA Cars & Coffee Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, John Sale**

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**?? | | NEPA Picnic ? \*\* see note 2\*\***

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**\* Note 1\*** NEPA's Driving Events Coordinator, Barry Brobst, cannot do this particular day drive. If one of our members would like to step in and map out a scenic day drive to a particular place of interest, and optional restaurant following the event, please contact Mike Ziegler, NEPA President at 610-504-5470 or [mikez@zieglersrv.com](mailto:mikez@zieglersrv.com)

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**\*\* Note 2 \*\* NEPA SUMMER PICNIC**

In the past, our NEPA picnics have been hosted by one of our members at their home. Food and nonalcoholic drinks are provided by the club. Member side dishes are welcome. This year we are hoping one of our members will step up and volunteer to host it; otherwise, we will see if we can reserve one of our parks in which to have it. Please let us know if you would like to host our summer picnic and if so, what dates would you like? Please contact Mike Ziegler, NEPA President at 610-504-5470 or [mikez@zieglersrv.com](mailto:mikez@zieglersrv.com)

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

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## News

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### **New NEPA Board Member**

**Christina Cimino**



Christina Cimino was approved by the board for the position of NEPA Social Media Coordinator. Christina was featured member in our NEPA Fall 2020 newsletter. She will be posting NEPA and other items of Mercedes interest to Social Media apps such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. We are very happy she accepted the position and look forward to working with her.

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### **Welcome to our Newest Sponsor, Hagerty Insurance**

We would like to welcome our newest sponsor Hagerty Insurance. Please see their info at the bottom of this newsletter along with our other sponsors. Please consider our sponsors when you need their type of service. Thank you to all our sponsors.

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

Click on the link in the heading to browse Mercedes Benz Channel on YouTube.

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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## Members' Corner

Tom Lindeman

MBCA NE Pennsylvania Section Membership Coordinator

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### Meet our new members:

Javier Birriel of Bethlehem, PA  
Andrejs Bogdanovs of Tobihanna, PA  
Monee Collars of Bethlehem, PA  
Colter Dabney of Trout Run, PA  
Frank Guastella of Pocono Pines, PA  
Scott Harding of Bethlehem, PA (2003 C32 AMG, 2015 E63 AMG S)  
George Hixon of Pen Argyl, PA  
Matthew Kuplack of Jefferson Twp, PA (1971 280SE 4.5, 2014 AMG E63s Wagon)  
Joan Mendola of White Haven, PA  
Christian Mercado of Hawley, PA (1983 300D-T)  
Jordan Nimeh of Allentown, PA  
Samantha Roberts of Allentown, PA  
Denise Spencer of Philadelphia, PA  
Connie Thompson of Jersey Shore, NJ  
Brian Tucker of Bethlehem, PA  
Ed Ubbens of Reeders, PA

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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## Technical Feature

### **Mercedes-Benz-- more than just a luxury car builder**

**by John Sale**

I just watched the Bahrain F1 race on Sunday. I expected to see what is recently considered a normal race, Lewis Hamilton winning his 11<sup>th</sup> race this year for Mercedes-Benz. He won the race, but the remarkable thing that

happened was Romaine Grosjean, driving for Haas Racing, surviving a first lap crash with minor burns. ([Tech, Training Are Why Formula 1 Racer Grosjean Is Alive Today \(caranddriver.com\)](#)) This was a testament to the remarkable engineering of the F1 race cars. Although the analysis of what happened during the crash and recommendations for further safety improvements will occur over the next few months, it was obvious that three things contributed to there not being a casualty from the crash. The first was the separation of the race car into two pieces. This dissipated energy and kept the driver away from the engine. The second was the 'halo' cage around the driver that protected him when the car penetrated the barrier. The third was the driver training on exiting the car in an emergency. A final thing worth mentioning was the drivers fire-protection suit and having a safety car following the race for the first lap. One of the first responders to the crash was one of the medical personnel who help the driver exit the flames and cross over the barrier to safety. A more detailed report on the incident can be found at [This Is How Romain Grosjean Survived \(roadandtrack.com\)](#).

However, this was not the initial purpose of writing this article. I wanted to talk about Mercedes-Benz being more than just a luxury car builder, but a builder of some of the best sports touring and race cars. A lot has been written about Detroit muscle cars. But what has been overlooked in the US is that Mercedes-Benz has been out-muscling Detroit for years. Almost year-for-year Mercedes-Benz has produced higher horsepower and faster cars than Detroit. I think that a testament to this is its success in world class racing.



The best-known driver for Mercedes-AMG is Lewis Hamilton who recently won his seventh F1 world championship in the Turkish Grand Prix. This ties Michael Schumacher's record for F1 world championship wins. Lewis has been racing F1 cars since 2007. His first six years were with McLaren where he won his first F1 world championship title in 2008. His next eight years were with Mercedes-AMG with further F1 world championship successes in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In addition, Mercedes-AMG won its seventh consecutive constructors' championship-setting a new world record for most consecutive Constructors' Championships in the sport. The result marked the 100<sup>th</sup> win for the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team in the hybrid era as well as the 500<sup>th</sup> podium place for Mercedes-Benz.

## Get Answers to Your Technical Questions

**Question from Barry Brobst:** At the board meeting I and some others were talking about how little we are driving. I'll have less than 100 miles on each of my 3 fun cars 67-230SL, 81-300D and 09-SL550. So the question came up on what should be done for winter storage on seldom used cars. Do we have to change the oil etc. before we put them back in storage. One individual said he might get 500 miles, so the question may be different for different milage. Can you help?

**Answer from Walter Piekarski, NEPA Technical Advisor:** Walter prefers changing his oil at 6,000 miles. But if driven infrequently, change the oil at least once a year if using conventional oil (older cars), since moisture and other contaminants can build up in the **oil**, especially with frequent cold starts and short trips. If using synthetic oil (newer cars) at least every 2 to 3 years.

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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.

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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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## Past Events

### **NNJ/ SSJ Annual Picnic John Bleimaier's Falconhurst Farm, Hopewell, NJ**

The Annual NNJS/SJS Regional Mid-Atlantic MBCA Picnic and car show was held on Saturday, September 26. It was a huge success. There were some 75 cars entered, and lots of room for all.

This year the menu was a catered international picnic menu featuring picnic foods and desserts from around the world.

Door prize and Car Show Placement Trophies were awarded.

Social distancing was observed. Masks were worn by everyone.







Top: John Bleimaier welcomes everyone. Bottom: some of the guests and some of the many cars.

[Click here to view additional great photos of the event.](#)

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### **2020 COVID-19 FALL RALLY REPORT**

Our 2020 Fall Rally was held Saturday October 3rd, 2020. The rally was a success with twenty-four people and nine cars signing up including one car with visitors from a New Jersey Section of the Mercedes Club.

The rally started with an optional breakfast at the Coopersburg Diner followed by the twenty-four and a half mile scenic Saucon Valley drive during which the correct route had to be followed while searching for the correct answers to twenty questions concerning things located along the route.

The rally ended at the Hellertown Diner in Hellertown PA. where participants had lunch while sharing their experiences following the route, locating the correct answers to questions, and attempting to justify how they arrived at incorrect ones.

This year first place winners were John & Marina Bleimaier from the New Jersey Section in car number one who edged out Randy & Elizabeth Shayler, second place winners by ten points. Car number five won third place with Arlene and Shelley Frailey who were just five points behind second place.

The weather co-operated with a beautiful sunny fall day, perfect for a safe day on the road during the COVID-19 crisis. The only time masks and social distancing was violated was a moment after the rally outside for a photograph.



**Top:** This year's first place winners were John & Marina Bleimaier from the New Jersey Section.

**Bottom left:** Members with their cars. **Bottom right:** Participants

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## On Going Items

### **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](https://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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#### **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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#### **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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**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: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

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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)

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### **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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### **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:

### **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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### **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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### **Request From The Advertising Coordinator**

Do you have a favorite Mercedes-Benz service center or equipment supplier? Please send me their contact information (name, address, telephone number, and/or email address). I will contact them to see if we can get them involved with NEPA advertising and activities.



Northeastern  
Pennsylvania  
Section


John Sale  
Advertising Coordinator

610.442.5930  
jws3@lehigh.edu  
www.nepa.mbca.org

## Renew Your Membership/Sign up New Members

Current members may **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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Christina Cimino | Social Media Coordinator | [ChristinaCimino16@gmail.com](mailto:ChristinaCimino16@gmail.com)

Bill Fisher | Regional Director - Mid Atlantic | 609-221-2633 | [billfisher\\_560sl@yahoo.com](mailto:billfisher_560sl@yahoo.com)

**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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