Northeastern Pennsylvania Section

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

MBCA-NEPA.COM



Shining Star Spring 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

After the many cancelations of events last year, many of us are anticipating being able to attend more club events this year.

Our next event is the Day Drive May 15th. We are hoping for someone to step up to run the event, since Barry, our Day Drive Coordinator will be recuperating from surgery and will not be able to drive then. He would be willing to give you pointers on what to do. Let me know by April 5th if you can help (we do have a backup person, if we don't get a volunteer by April 5th).

If you put your MB away for the winter, it is time to get it out with the warmer weather. At the very least, give it a test run before the May 15th Day Drive (better to get out the bugs before the event).

Happy spring,

Mike Ziegler



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 Membership Coordinator needed
- Mercedes Benz Channel on YouTube.com
- Members' Corner
- New MBCA membership application
- New MBCA Membership Incentive
- New Members
- Technical Feature
- Mercedes Benz Legacy

 The Mercedes-AMG Engine
- Technical Questions answered
- Visit our Facebook Page

In Memoriam

* We lost Joe Cristiani in August and joe Grattan in December 2020.

Past Events:

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

Upcoming Events

2021 Events

April	Spring Dinner (Meeting) Cancelled
Sat, May 15	NEPA Day Drive * see note (1) below
Tue, Jun 7 7PM-9PM	NEPA Board Meeting
Sat, Jun 19 9AM-3PM details below	I June Jamboree, Florham Park, NJ (NNJ Section) **
Jun 19 - 27 postponed to 2022)	Philadelphia Auto Show (looks like it may be
Sat, Jul 10 8AM-4PM	Deutsche Classic, Oley (NEPA/Keystone Section)
Sun, Aug 8 8AM-4PM	NEPA Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie
Sun, Aug ? 8AM-4PM	New Hope Car Show (Del Val Section)
Tue, Sep 7 7PM-9PM	NEPA Board Meeting
Sat, Sep 11 NJ	Regional, NNJ/SNJ Picnic, Bleiemaier's, Hopewell,
Sun Sep 19	NEPA Day Drive, Barry Brobst
Sat, Oct 2	NEPA Road Rally, Ron Gabel
Thu, Oct 7 6PM-7PM Fogelsville)	NEPA Planning Meeting/ Election (?Starlite,
Thu, Oct 7 8:45PM	NEPA Board Meeting (?Starlite, Fogelsville)
Sat, Nov ? Otto)	NEPA Tech Session, Masano's MB, Reading (Alice &
Tue, Dec 21 6PM/7PM dinner)	NEPA Christmas/Holiday Party (6P cocktails; 7P
Sun ? 8AM-12PM Sale)	NEPA Cars & Coffee Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem (John
??	NEPA Picnic ? ** see note 2**

^{*} Note 1* NEPA's Driving Events Coordinator, Barry Brobst, cannot do this particular day drive. He has notes regarding one of the drives to Kaufman's Barbecue Ranch in Ono. If one of you members would like to step in and map out a scenic day drive either to Kaufman's or another particular place of interest, and optional restaurant following the event, please contact Mike Ziegler, NEPA President at 610-504-5470 or mikez@zieglersrv.com

^{**} 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. Dates are flexible if they don't conflict with other events. 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

57th Annual Northern New Jersey June Jamboree 2021

Saturday, June 19, 2021 9:00am to 3:00pm Park Avenue Club 184 Park Ave Florham Park New Jersey

This year June Jamboree will be back at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park, NJ on Saturday, June 19, 2021 for the NNJS 57th Annual June Jamboree. The Park Avenue Club is conveniently located near major roadways and is easy to get to from your location. Needless to say, we are looking forward to the Jamboree this year as it will be our first big event of the year. As time gets closer, we will let you know more details.

The cars will be broken down into two categories – Concours (judged by a team of judges according to MBCA guidelines) and Popular (voted on by those in attendance). The cars in Concours class are then further broken down according to chassis. Concours cars need to be detailed and will be judged in four categories: 1 – Interior, Upholstery, Trunk; 2 – Glass, Lights, Rubber, Chrome, Trim; 3 – Engine Compartment; 4 – Paint, Coachwork; and points are also given for mileage and age. There is a mandatory 2-point deduction if your car is trailered to the event. Popular Vote cars are divided into two categories (Sedan and Sport) and then further broken down by years – New – 2016 to present; Modern – 2006 – 2015; Old – 1996 – 2005; Vintage – pre - 1996. My advice for the Popular Vote cars is to "Give the baby a bath and come enjoy a good time with fellow Benz enthusiasts." Cars over 25 years old are also eligible for the Silver Star Preservation certificate – you can be in either Popular or Concours and have your car judged for this certificate. Registration information will be available soon.

Please check MBCA-NEPA.COM for updates after this newsletter publication.

News

New Membership Coordinator Needed

Tom Lindeman has served as NEPA's Membership Coordinator for the past 5 years. During this time, he started a new business as a beekeeper! He found that the resources required for this venture, impeded his ability to devote time to our club and caused him to resign his position. Also, he gave up his Mercedes in order to purchase a truck which he needed for the business.

He has offered to be available to help our new Membership Coordinator (you?) to provide any insight or materials needed for you to be successful in this role.

We will miss him and his wife Diane and wish them lots of success in their new beekeeping adventure.

The membership coordinator's role is basically to retain and increase membership in our club! (Phone calls, emails, etc.)

If you are interested in joining our team or would like more information, please contact Mike Ziegler at 610-504-5370 or email at mikez@zieglersrv.com.

We are a fun group and prior to COVID, had wonderful dinner meetings, now via ZOOM, but we look forward to meeting in person again in the very near future.

Mercedes Benz Channel on You-Tube

Click on the link in the heading to browse Mercedes Benz Channel on You-Tube.

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.

Members' Corner

Available Now!

The New Online Membership Brochure / Application

The newly redesigned two-page Membership Application has been updated with a cover page highlighting MBCA Membership Roadmap of Benefits, has links to our

Social Media Pages and a completely redesigned fillable membership application. This new condensed version of the traditional application reduces printing costs while still providing important information about the club and benefits of being an MBCA member.

This new two-sided online brochure can be locally printed, reducing the expense of printing and mailing the traditional tri-fold application. Sections that need applications immediately for a recruiting event can download the PDF and have the new Brochure/Application printed locally on card stock.

The new Brochure / Fillable Application can be viewed or downloaded by clicking on the link or the image below:

https://www.mbca.org/sites/default/files/reference/MBCA_online_Brochure2021_FORM.pdf



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Announcing the 2021 MBCA Renew Your Membership Special Incentives!

Beginning March 1, 2021 running through May 31, 2021 we will be offering three special bonuses to members who renew their membership.

BONUS 1: One additional month added to your membership for every year you renew. You can earn up to an additional three months of extended membership for a three-year renewal. (bonus months are added onto the expiration date of your membership)

BONUS 2: All members who renew their membership during this promotion will be eligible to win a \$50.00 gift card of their choice. (AMEX, VISA, or Amazon) Drawing to be held on June 2nd.

SPECIAL BONUS: If you enroll in Auto-Renew at the same time you renew, you will automatically be entered into the drawing for a \$50.00 gift card of your choice. (AMEX, VISA or Amazon) A drawing is held at every 1,000 auto renew enrollment. The next drawing will be held at the 3,000-enrollment mark.

Don't delay, Renew today.

Renew online at https://www.mbca.org/ or contact the National Business Office at 800.637.2360 and one of the staff will gladly assist you.

(Disclaimer: This program is not retroactive.)

Meet our new members:

Jim Broda of Wilkes Barre, PA
Angela Castro of Emmaus, PA (2016 GLA250)
Rajiv Chadha of Womelsdorf, PA
Jay Gill of Schuylkill Haven, PA
Gregory Grap of Bethlehem, PA
Jeffrey Harris of Matamoras, PA (2016 E350)
Mark Nugent of Danville, PA
Mark Rode of Bethlehem, PA
Sanela Sarcacinaj of Sugarloaf, PA
Amanda Slawko of Elverson, 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)

Technical Feature

MERCEDES-BENZ LEGACY – THE MERCEDES-AMG ENGINE

by John W. Sale P.E.

Sitting around for the last few months with way too much time on my hands (should be out driving with the top down), gave me time to think about off-beat Mercedes-Benz history. One thing that came to mind was to learn a little more about the AMG engine; both its origin and use outside the Mercedes-Benz badge-line. I was particularly interested in the AMG engine used in production cars.

Mercedes AMG High Performance Powertrains (previously known as Ilmor Engineering and Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines) is a British Formula One engine manufacturer, owned by Mercedes-Benz. Two ex-Mercedes-Benz engineers founded AMG with the primary goal of independently building powerful

engines for race-focused cars. But it was later acquired by DaimlerChrysler AG. Today, this department is dedicated to creating performance engines for Mercedes cars. Many carmakers desire to have their products running on AMG powerhouses. Unfortunately, the AMG's "one man one engine" philosophy makes it hard to mass-produce the engines, making it difficult for them to find their way into other production cars.

Current AMG models are the "35" M260 2.0 L Inline-4 Turbo "45" M133 2.0 L Inline-4 Turbo "43" M276 3.0 L V6 Bi-Turbo "43" M256 3.0 L Inline-6 Turbo "53" M256 3.0 L Inline-6 Turbo "63" M157 5.5 L V8 Bi-Turbo "65" M275 6.0 L V12 Bi-Turbo and the "63" M177/M178 4.0 L V8 Bi-Turbo.

The following information is about two legacy production cars with AMG engines that was found in Hotcars News. The four cars not included are modern renditions manufactured for Pagani and Aston-Martin. The source article that includes all six cars can be found at HotCars newsletter.

1989 Mitsubishi AMG Galant

The VR-4 is a legend in automotive history. It was the Galant's performance version. It is also the car that forged the way for the iconic Lancer Evolution. Before Mercedes acquired AMG, the tuning company had built an AMG-badged Galant for the Japanese market.



Figure 1: 1989 Mitsubishi AMG Galant

AMG took the Galant's stock engine, a 2.0-liter four-cylinder, and tuned it to deliver 170 horsepower at 8,000 rpm, 25 horsepower less than that of the VR-4. The difference was that AMG added more power to the engine without a turbocharger. Turbocharged engines at that time suffered excessive lag. The AMG Galant was fast and fun to drive. A more detailed review of the AMG Galant and some pricing information can be found at The Mitsubishi Galant: The Only Japanese Car Tuned

by AMG or The Mitsubishi Galant AMG Is An AMG Tuned Mitsubishi. Even though the current asking price is reasonable for a collector car, finding one may be difficult due to its limited production.

2005 Chrysler Crossfire SRT-6

Under the Crossfire shell lies the first-generation Mercedes-Benz SLK roadster platform. Being an American vehicle, fans of the Street & Racing Technology cars expected the Crossfire SRT-6 to be powered by an American engine.



Figure 2: 2005 Chrysler Crossfire SRT-6

To their disappointment, the SRT-6 came with a foreign engine. However, no one can stay disappointed for long when there is an AMG-developed 3.2-liter supercharged engine under the hood. Initially hand-built for the SLK32 AMG and C32 AMG, the engine produces 330 horsepower and 310 lb-ft of torque, enough power to turn the roadster into a fun-to-drive car. Interest in the car was initially low due to its relatively high MSRP. However, it has maintained a strong fan-base due to its engine performance. Consumer reviews and list price estimates can be found at Edmunds Used 2005 Chrysler Crossfire SRT-6 Consumer Reviews. A search of current listings for this car shows that good examples are readily available at a reasonable price.

The review of these two production cars shows that the Mercedes-AMG engine can take an average car and turn it into a performance and competition car. They should be considered as worthwhile additions to be shown at any Mercedes-Benz event.

Get Answers to Your Technical Questions

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

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/

In Memoriam

In 2020 we lost two good men and past presidents of the Northern New Jersey section – Joe Cristiano in August and Joe Grattan in December. Both were very active and integral members of our section.

Joe Cristiano was known for his passion for the club and his extensive knowledge of the models, his enthusiasm, and willingness to share the information. Joe was very active with the club since joining 29 years ago. His wife Valerie said he was the force and inspiration behind her as a section board member and president over the years.

We lost **Joe Grattan** in December 2020. Joe Grattan was also our Regional Director for many years. He loved this club. It was his passion in the last decade or two of his life. He was an active member of Mercedes Benz club of American for

many years. In the most recent past Joe was running for Director at large. He was well-liked by everyone and will be sorely missed.

Past Events

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.

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



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 <u>MBCA.org</u> web site (also notify editor if you want the associate member to receive emailed newsletters and eBlasts), or email the information to <u>Newsletter Editor</u> 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.

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 me 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

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.

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.

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.

Mike Ziegler
MBCA NEPA Section
mikez@zieglersrv.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.

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 (he may have to call you back). You can visit his web site at: www.WaltersMercedesServices.com

Mike Ziegler

Keeping Your Membership Current

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, Alice Christensen, Newsletter Editor at achristensen@comcast.net or by phoning me at 610-926-8392 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)

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.

Request From The Advertising Coordinator

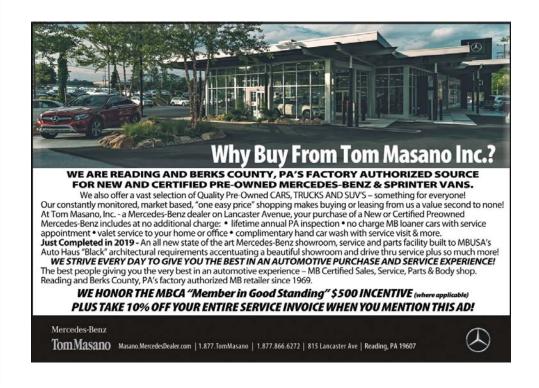
Do you have a favorite Mercedes-Benz service center or equipment supplier? Please send me their contact information (name, address, telephone number, and/or email address). I will contact them to see if we can get them involved with NEPA advertising and activities.



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!







HAGERTY. Let's Drive Together

877-922-9701 | hagerty.com



LIKE us on facebook! This is your forum to keep in touch and share information.

www.facebook.com/groups/MercedesBenzNEPA

As a Mercedes Benz owner, you experience the best automobile in the world to drive. Now experience the best service for your Mercedes Benz by Star Service Center.

(610) 437-3374 starservicecentermb.com 738 N. Graham St. Allentown

Mike Ziegler | President | 610-504-5370 | mikez@zieglersrv.com
Roger Egolf | Vice President | 610-393-2688 | rae4@psu.edu
Debbie Egolf | Secretary | 610-751-7685 | egolf2000@yahoo.com
Jolanta Piekarski | Treasurer | jolantarentals@aol.com
Barry Brobst | Driving Events Coordinator | 610-390-1878 | bbrobst@ptd.net
Ron Gabel | Rally Master | rggabel@ptd.net
Alice Christensen | MBCA-NEPA Newsletter/eBlast Editor | achristensen@comcast.net
Brett Kropf | Webmaster | Brett@Kropf.com
Debra Kropf | IT Specialist | Debra@Kropf.com
Walter Piekarski | Technical Advisor | 610-865-4255 | www.WaltersMercedesServices.com
John Sale | Advertising Coordinator | (610) 442-5930 | jws3@lehigh.edu
Christina Cimino | Social Media Coordinator | ChristinaCimino16@gmail.com

Bill Fisher | Regional Director - Mid Atlantic | 609-221-2633 | billfisher_560sl@yahoo.com

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

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