

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Section

### Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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



## Shining Star Fall 2024 Newsletter

### ***Fall 2024 Newsletter Highlights***

Welcome to Fall! It was quite a warm summer, but turnout was great for all our car club events. This newsletter is full of write-ups and pictures of these events. It's a pretty long newsletter.

As we head into fall, our car activities lessen, but we have business/social events scheduled to enable us to get together; such as our NEPA Brunches, NEPA Planning Meeting, and NEPA Holiday Party. There will be more details about these events in future eBlast(s).

Details about our Fall Road Rally are in this newsletter and there will be a follow-up eBlast around October 6 as a reminder, asking for an RSVP so Ron, our Rally Master, has an idea of how many will be joining us for lunch and for how many handouts he will need for the rally. It is always a fun and interesting drive with fun participants and socializing afterwards.

Additional details about our wonderful Day Drive, scheduled for October 27 will be sent in a future eBlast.

Also in this newsletter, we are looking for a replacement for our NEPA Secretary. Debbie Egolf has fulfilled this position wonderfully for many years. Due to health issues, she has resigned (I'm happy to report that she is on the mend). If you would like to be considered for this volunteer Officer position, please reach out to our president Roger Egolf.

Be sure to join us on October 17 for our NEPA Planning meeting where you will be able to submit your suggestions for next year's activities. Also, if you'd like to volunteer or nominate someone to fill our available board positions, be sure to come.

We are also looking for someone to volunteer to answer any reader's technical car questions. If interested, reach out to our president, Roger Egolf, and let him know.

*Alice Christensen*  
*NEPA Newsletter Editor*

## 1. Upcoming 2024 Events

### *In this Issue*

#### 1. Events for 2024 in PA unless otherwise noted

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Sat. Oct 12, NEPA Road Rally

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Thu. Oct 17, 6:00 PM NEPA Planning Meeting - Hops at the Paddock, Allentown

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Thu. Oct 17, 8:45 PM NEPA Board Meeting - Hops at the Paddock, Allentown

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Oct 27, 12:30PM - NEPA Day Drive -- details in a future eBlast

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Sat. Nov 16, NEPA Tech Session - Masano's Reading -- **cancelled**

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Tue. Dec 10, 6PM Christmas/Holiday Party Madeline's Restaurant in Fogelsville - Members will be able to sign up and pay on-line

#### 2. Members Corner

- New Members

#### 3. Visit our Facebook Page

#### 4. Past Events

- Deutsche Classic Oley, PA July 13
- NEPA Tech Session at Shearer's July 7
- DAS Awkscht Fescht August 4
- NEPA Picnic at Kelly's August 24
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic Hopewell, NJ - Sept 7
- Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

#### 5. NEPA Board of Directors elects new Treasurer

#### 6. NEPA Secretary needed

#### 7. **MBCA Website system change, attention members who were on automatic membership renewal**

**8. Previous Items of Interest:** Airbag Recall, Personalized License Plates available, Associate Members emails, MBCA Car Flags, Name Badges, Free Classified Ads, MBCA Northeastern PA Section Logo Clothing Available!, Survey Request, Pictures of events needed for our website, Event Attendance Book, Request from the Advertising Coordinator, Mercedes Benz Channel on YouTube.com; Important Member Survey--we want to hear what YOU want from us

## **Cars and Coffee – Lehigh Valley 2024 Schedule**

Steel Stacks Location

101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, PA 18015

**9AM to Noon**

**September 22** All makes & models for the last LV Cars & Coffee of the season

## **2024 Upcoming Event Details**

### **2024 NEPA Brunches**

[The Parkland Restaurant/Diner](#)

**2702 Walbert Ave, Allentown, PA 18104**

**(610) 432-2745**

**10 AM**

**Nov 9**

These NEPA Brunches have been popular and well-attended with lots of good Mercedes-related conversations and camaraderie. We hope to see you all at one or all of them in 2024! We order off the menu.

As the dates get closer, we will send eBlast reminders.



## NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA MBCA

### 2024 FALL CAR RALLY

October 12, 2024

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!** Our 2024 Fall Mercedes car rally will be held Saturday October 12, 2024. Participants are invited to meet for breakfast at the Starlite Diner on Route 100 just south of the route 78 Fogelsville interchange. Breakfast on your own will be available from 8:30 AM until the official start of the rally at 10:00 AM.

Everyone is invited to attend a short drivers' meeting in the parking lot at 9:45 AM prior to the 10.00 AM start of the rally.

The rally will be open to all Mercedes club members, their family and friends, but all participating cars must be Mercedes unless your car happens to be out of service. Every participating car must have a minimum of a driver and a navigator.

As in prior rallies speed will NOT be a factor in this rally. In fact driving fast will result in missing answers to questions and probably in adding mileage when turns are missed.

Winners are determined by properly following the route while locating as many answers as possible to questions regarding things that may be seen along the route.

The more Mercedes of any model or year entered in the rally the more fun it will be for everyone. Any owner of a Mercedes automobile is invited to attend, no previous experience will be required or necessary to share in this day of fellowship with friends.

**No sign-up is necessary, but the rally master would very much appreciate notification how many people and cars to expect as the restaurant needs to be advised how many persons to expect, lunch food is available on your own at the end of the rally while winners are calculated. Please, if possible, notify the rally master Ron by e-mail at [rggabel@ptd.net](mailto:rggabel@ptd.net).**

**NEPA Election/Planning Meeting  
Hops at The Paddock  
1945 W. Columbia St., Allentown, PA 18104  
Thursday, October 17 6PM**

Join us Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> for our Election/Planning dinner meeting at the Hop's Paddock at 6pm to place your vote. We will take any additional nominations from the floor (nominated person must agree to serve the volunteer position). All members are encouraged to participate and add your input to our election and 2025 calendar of events.

After the election, we will plan our 2025 calendar of events.

NEPA members and their associate member's dinner will be paid for by our NEPA section as a thank you for helping with planning next year's events.

Please RSVP to Alice Christensen [achristensen@comcast.net](mailto:achristensen@comcast.net)

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## **NEPA Day Drive**

**Sunday, October 27**

Sunday, October 27, 2024, the Mercedes Club will travel to Mike Lopsonzski's Collector car garage. Mike is a fellow Club member.

The club will be viewing over 20 of Mike's Collector Cars. The updated garage, where the cars are displayed, will certainly be of interest.

We will start our drive by socializing at 9:30 am at Dunkin Donuts (Weis Market, Route 100, Fogelsville, PA). The club will provide coffee and doughnuts before the drive. We will begin our drive at 10:00 am and travel some interesting back roads and arrive at our destination at 12 noon. After our tour, we will have a late lunch and some additional conversation.

A eBlast will be sent with additional information.

Barry Brobst  
Day Drive Coordinator

Please check [MBCA-NEPA.COM](http://MBCA-NEPA.COM) and/or [mbca.org/section/northeastern-pennsylvania](http://mbca.org/section/northeastern-pennsylvania) for updates after this newsletter publication.

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### 3. Members' Corner

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

Matthew Blyth of Wrightsville, PA  
Klaudia Chilcoat of Camp Hill PA (2022 CLS 450, 2009 SL500)  
Edgardo Davila  
David DeWitt of Horsham, PA  
Evan Goodman of Ephrata, PA (W205 C300 (AMG package)  
Girard Mecadon of Pittston, PA  
Gregg Semanchick

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 Advisor Needed**

Walter Piekarski stepped down as our technical advisor. Thank you Walter for your years of service.

We are looking for a volunteer technical advisor to answer NEPA members' technical questions.

Currently, if you have technical questions, you may submit them to [Alice Christensen](#), Newsletter Editor, who will then submit them to our Technical Advisor for an answer, which may also be put in our next edition.

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### 5. 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/>

## 7. Past Events

### DeutscheClassic

Oley Fairgrounds

Oley, PA

The Deutsche Classic is a yearly **all-German automotive & motorcycle event**, welcoming vintage, classic and late model German vehicles – cars, motorcycles and more! This year we had an excellent turn-out of our Mercedes! We had about 50 cars.

Our members won the following:

**Best Preservation:** Daniel R. Kelly III - 1969 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL

**Best Motor:** Otto Christensen - 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL

**Best Interior:** Martin Lilienthal - 1996 VW GTI VR6

**Best Exterior:** Ross Wilson - 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280SL

**Best of Show:** David Wormser - 1967 Mercedes-Benz 200 Diesel

[More info at: DeutschClassic.com](https://www.DeutschClassic.com)





## "NEPA 2024 Summer Tech Session" Schearer's European Automotive Specialists

Saturday, July 27th

The Northeast PA (NEPA) section of the Mercedes Benz Club of America (MBCA) held its 2024 summer technical session at [Schearer's European Automotive Specialists](#) located at 5530 Crackersport Rd, Allentown, PA 18104. Samantha Schearer, the business' service advisor, hosted the event. Coffee and donuts were provided by Schearer's.

Tom Schearer's Mercedes Mechanic Jeff Deitz introduced the staff that specializes in Mercedes Benz service and repairs. Tom keeps the shop fully equipped with the latest factory-grade tools & equipment available to manage everything your car needs.

Jeff and his staff went over some basic principles of diagnosing problems, focusing on what is "safe" for owners to do and when to get a professional involved. For example, if you are a DIY mechanic with a code scanner, do not erase the error codes before you have diagnosed and fixed the problem. You may need expert help, and they will need to see all the error codes to help. DIY is not always the best choice when you have a severe problem.

The first Mercedes brought in was Roger Egolf's 2003 SL500. Rick showed how the diagnostic tool worked as well as some very convenient features, such as being able to tilt the car forward and down and backward and up to give better access when performing various services.

The session took off from its original course and put several owners' MB's up on lifts and showed us the undercarriages as well as helping to diagnose some 'noises' some owners heard on the roads.

We were also given maintenance recommendations from an independent repair facility point of view to give tips on making our Mercedes Benz last longer than the 100K miles the manufacturer wants them to. Waiting for problems to occur is not a good maintenance strategy. We were also educated on warning signs to look for to reduce breakdowns and catastrophic failures.

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Following the tech session, some members went on a 'mini' day drive from Schearer's to lunch at

### **Villa Lentini**

2700 Balliet St.

Coplay, PA 18037

Villa Lentini (formerly the Ballietville Inn) is a historic landmark. The building dates to the 1750s, which was prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The food was excellent Italian Cuisine, friendly service, and delightful ambience.

Thanks to John Sale and the staff at Scheerer's for arranging this enjoyable and informative session. And thanks to Barry for introducing and guiding us through scenic Lehigh County roads to this wonderful restaurant.



**Das  
Awkscht Fescht**



**AUGUST 2, 3 & 4, 2024  
MACUNGIE MEMORIAL PARK  
MACUNGIE, PA**

**Das Awkscht Fescht**  
Sunday, August 4

Although Das Awkscht Fescht is a 3-day show, the last day, which was August 4 this year, was Car Club Day.

The rules used to be that cars had to be more than 25 years old, but that was changed so that the individual car clubs could decide which years/makes/models would be allowed.

it was one of the nicest days we had for Das Awkscht Fescht: not too hot and part of the day cloudy (blocking the sun). Our NEPA section had quite a good turnout.

Thanks to Jay Hirsch for providing us excellent pictures from the event, the attendees and our cars!





Photos: by Jay Hirsch

### [New Hope Auto Show](#) **Sunday, August 11 (Foreign Cars)** **9AM - 4PM**

For 66 years, some of the finest antique and classic automobiles in the country have made their way to New Hope, Pennsylvania to be judged for authenticity, originality, cleanliness, and condition. Over the years, The New Hope Automobile Show has drawn up to 10,000 people over the two-day show, all looking to see and appreciate the design and technology of automobile manufacturers from all over the world.

All proceeds are used by **New Hope Helping** to fund local community organizations and charities.

It was a beautiful day this year. We had around 15 MB's, minus one sent to the 'Tuner' Class. That belonged to Member Otto Christensen, who won first place in the class. Shown in the picture below is his rebuilt 1968 280SL, totally rebuilt with the inclusion of an M119 engine (upgraded from a 6-cylinder to an 8-cylinder)!



## NEPA ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

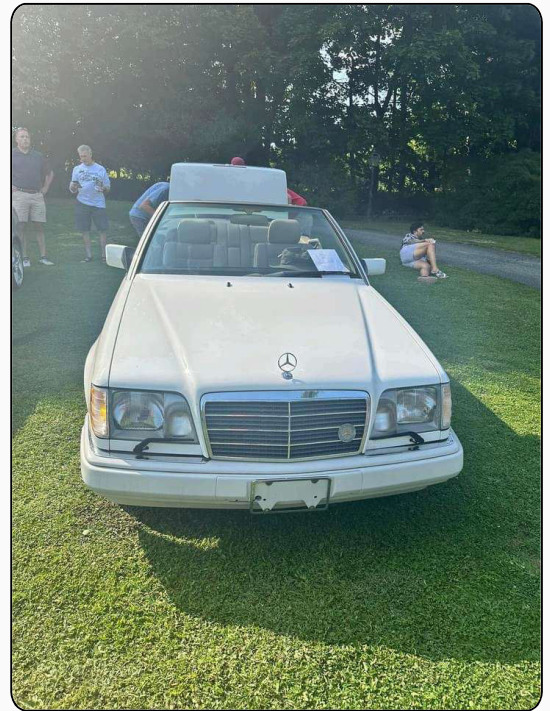
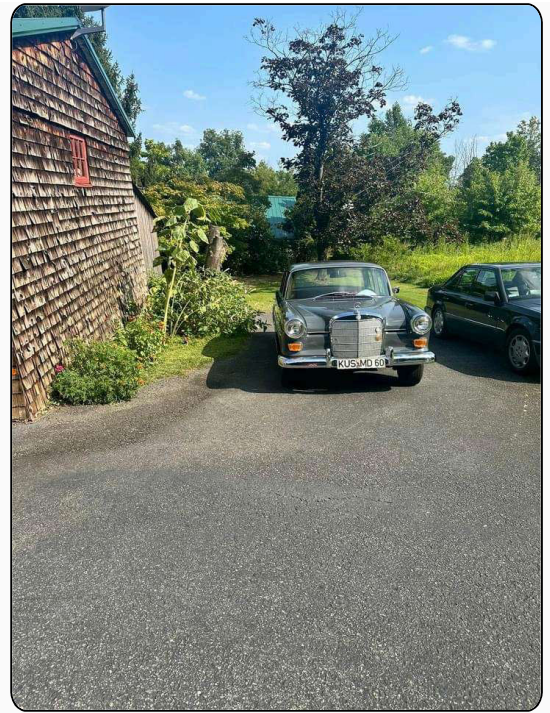
### Saturday, August 24 1PM-5PM

Once again, we were very lucky with the weather. It was beautiful, not too hot. We had about 30 people turn out. The food was delicious; there were lots of salads, hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwursts, and desserts.

There was a 'just for fun' people's choice awards. First place went to Wesley Wormser for his 1967 200 D (fin tail); Second Place to Alice Christensen for her 2019 GLC43 AMG (she credits her husband for that win. He washed the car prior to the picnic); Third Place to Steven Roth for his 1995 E320 cabriolet. Pictures below.

We would like to thank our hosts Dan Kelly (2nd from right in top photo in blue shirt) and Frances Kelly (standing on the left in the blue shirt) for allowing us to enjoy their estate for the NEPA picnic.





Winning cars top right: 1st Place Wesley Wormser's 1967 200 D (fin tail); bottom left: 2nd Place Alice Christensen's 2019 GLC 43 AMG; 3rd Place Steve Roth's 1995 E320 cabriolet.

Above photos courtesy of Gina Mattera, NEPA Social Media Coordinator

## Annual MBCA Mid-Atlantic Region Picnic & Car Show Falconhorst, John Bleimaier's Country Estate

## Saturday, September 7

MBCA's Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Picnic & Car Show took place on Saturday, September 7. at the home and on the grounds of **Falkenhorst, John Bleimaier's country estate in Hopewell, NJ.**

It was a beautiful day weather-wise with predictions of rain later in the day. Hamburgers and hot dogs, paper products, condiments, water, soda, and ice were provided by NNJS & SJS. Guests brought dishes to share. There were plenty of delicious salads, desserts, hors d'oeuvres, bread, butter, and lots more.

There was a fifty-fifty drawing. The winner donated their winnings to the charity at the picnic.

At 2 PM the rain started, right after the people's choice awards were presented. Great timing!

As usual, it was a great day filled with lovely cars and fellow MB lovers' camaraderie. We hope to see you all next year!



## Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance Sunday, September 8, 2024

Malvern, PA

As the only United States Concours d'Elegance to feature coaches and carriages, 2024 was the sixteenth year for this event to have an exhibition of the earliest form of wheeled transportation.

The show field also had an array of some of the greatest classic and sporting marques that have made the Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance one of the premier events in the nation.

The featured automotive classes for 2024 were:

**Classic Features:**

Allard Sports and Racing Cars

Pre-War MGs

Nickel Era Cars (c1912-1929)

For more information, visit <https://radnorconcours.org/>

This year there was sports car parking.

There were British bikes themes: Velocette, Vincent, Norton, BSA and Triumph

We had a good turn out of Mercedes'.

There was even a fox hunt, with dogs and horses (minus the foxes). We hope to see more of our clubs' members next year come out for this great event.

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## 5. NEPA Board of Directors elects a new Treasurer

NEPA Board of Directors elected **Brian Ramthun** as our new Treasurer. Welcome Brian! (Brian's photo can be found in the NEPA picnic pictures above, front left in a blue shirt).

We would again like to thank Jolanta Piekarski for many years serving as our Treasurer. She was our Treasurer since the founding of NEPA Section in 1981.

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## 6. NEPA Secretary Needed

We were sorry to announce that **Debbie Egolf** resigned the Secretary position of our NEPA section due to health reasons. We thank Debbie for her many years of service to our club. If you would be interested in volunteering to fill this officer position, please contact president Roger Egolf or Debbie Egolf. Roger and Debbie's contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

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## 7. MBCA website system change, attention members who were on automatic membership renewal:

MBCA's website [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) host has changed (old system will soon no longer be supported, so MBCA had to find a new system). Therefore, all the credit card numbers that were in the old system have been deleted and are not in the new system. If you are not able to log on the website to renew online, you will have to renew by calling MBCA National at 719-633-6427 (note: the 800# is no longer in service). Renewing with your credit card will incur a 3.75% credit card processing fee. You may send a check to National to avoid the fee. Your member number also changed with the new system. The new system is a work in progress, please be patient while the bugs are being worked out.

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## 8. Past Items of Interest

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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 were available through our Keystone Section. They are available either sequence numbered, or customized with up to 5 letter/numbers for an additional one-time fee. As of the publishing of this newsletter, the link to the directions and forms to fill out are not currently available. When they become available, I will send out an eBlast.

(Alice Christensen)



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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](https://MBCA.org) web site (also notify editor if you want the associate member to receive emailed newsletters and eBlasts), or email the information to [Newsletter Editor](#) 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**

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 \$10 and you pay the other \$10 and it will be sent to you in the mail. Payment (cash or check) must be paid before nametags are ordered. Three lines are

permitted: 1st line is for your first and last name (what you want fellow members to call you should be your first name), 2nd line is our section name, and optional 3rd line to list your car or other item. Member name badges are blue (gold for officers, silver for directors). You may get a magnetic clip (most popular), dual tie tack clips, or a pin type.

If you lost your badge or would like one to keep in your other MB, they are \$20.

Order your additional nametag or replacement nametag directly by going to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) , then login, then click "Store", then click "VIEW MBCA EVENT EQUIPMENT STORE".

Contact me for your first name badge (and for an additional nametag or replacement nametag if you prefer not to order it yourself on the website).

Jo Bottor, Membership

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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 10th for the Summer issue, September 10th for Fall issue, December 10th for the Winter issue, and March 10th 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:(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.*

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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.](#)

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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, and please cc your Newsletter Editor [achristensen@comcast.net](mailto:achristensen@comcast.net).

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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

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

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

### Important Member Survey

Hello Members! If you have not already filled out this survey, please take a few moments to complete this short but important member survey. We want to hear what in person events and topics presented through social media you would be interested in! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5JR28C>



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