

**Northeastern Pennsylvania
Section**

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

MBCA-NEPA.COM



Shining Star Winter 2024 Newsletter

1. Upcoming 2025 Events

2025 date	Time	Event	Location	Organizer
Sa 1/11	10am	Brunch	Parkland Resturant	NEPA
Sa 2/8	10am	Brunch	Parkland Resturant	NEPA
Th 3/20	6p-6:30p	Spring Dinner	?	NEPA
Th 4/3	7p-9p	Board Meeting	Starlite Restaurant?	NEPA
Sat 4/12	?	Tech session/Brunch	?	NEPA, John Sale
Sa 5/3	?	Day Drive	?	NEPA, Barry Brobst
Sat 5/17	7a-6p	Carlisle Import and Performance	Carlisle Fairgrounds	Wesley, Otto
Tu 6/10	7p-9p	Board Meeting	Starlite Resturant ?	NEPA
Sa 6/14	8a-3p	June Jamboree	? NJ	NNJ

Sa 7/12	8a-4p	Deutsche Classic	Oley	Community, NEPA/Keystone
Sa 7/19	10am	Brunch	Parkland Restaurant ?	NEPA
Su 8/3	8a-4p	Das Awkscht Fescht	Macungie	Community, Roger
Tu 8/5	7p-9p	Board Meeting	Starlite Restaurant ?	NEPA
Tu 8/10	8a-4p	New Hope Auto Show	New Hope	Community, Del Val
Sa 8/23	1p-5p	Picnic	?	NEPA
Su 9/7?	9a-4p	Radnor Hunt Concours	Melville	Community, Regional
?	11am	Mid-Atlantic Picnic	Bleimaier, Hopewell NJ	Regional, NNJ & SNJ
Sa 10/11	?	Road Rally	?	NEPA, Ron Gabel
Th 10/16	6p/6:30p	Planning/Elections Meeting	Hops at Paddock?	NEPA
Th 10/16	8:45p	Board Meeting	Hops at Paddock	NEPA
Su 10/26	?	Day Drive	?	NEPA
Sa 11/8	10am	Brunch		NEPA
Tu 12/9	6p/6:30p	Christmas/Holiday Party	Madeline's	NEPA

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3. Members Corner

- New Members

4. Visit our Facebook Page

5. Past Events

- NEPA Road Rally October 12, 2024
- Last NEPA Brunch of 2024 November
- Christmas/Holiday Dinner at Madeline's December 10, 2024

6. NEPA Board of Directors elects new Treasurer

7. NEPA Board of Directors elects new Secretary

8. MBCA Website system change, attention members who were on automatic membership renewal

9. 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

1. 2025 Upcoming Event Details

Cars and Coffee – Lehigh Valley 2025 Schedule

<https://www.steelstacks.org/carsandcoffee/>

Steel Stacks Location

101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, PA 18015

9AM to Noon

- Sunday, April 13 | 9 a.m.
- Sunday, May 4 | 9 a.m.
- Sunday, June 15 | 9 a.m.
- Sunday, July 13 | 9 a.m.
- Sunday, August 24 | 9 a.m.
- Sunday, September 7 | 9 a.m.

Cars & Coffee features a variety of unique, exotic and classic cars from the Lehigh Valley and beyond. The Mack Truck Stop at the Levitt Pavilion will be serving beverages and breakfast sandwiches available for purchase

throughout the event.

Each month also offers a different car theme, from Imports to American Muscle to European. All events will be held from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information and to view past events visit [Cars & Coffee Lehigh Valley on Facebook](#).

2025 NEPA Brunches

[The Parkland Restaurant/Diner](#)
2702 Walbert Ave, Allentown, PA 18104
(610) 432-2745

**Saturday, January 11 10:00AM &
Saturday, February 8 10:00AM**

These NEPA brunches have become very popular over the past several years as a way for members to continue their auto-related conversations and relationships throughout these cold winter months with their unpredictable weather. They have become 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 2025! We order off the menu.

January 11 is confirmed for the Parkland Restaurant at 10AM.

Please RSVP Roger Egolf email: rae4@psu.edu or cell 610-393-2688

MBCA-NEPA Spring Dinner

Thursday, March 20, 2025 - Mark your calendars!

6PM Cocktails; 630PM Dinner

Venue will be announced in a future eBlast

All members are invited to join us for our annual NEPA Spring Dinner. Come and meet the Board and other members of our section. It's always a cozy evening with our Mercedes friends and associates.

Please RSVP to ROGER EGOLF @ rae4@psu.edu by Monday, March 18. We look forward to seeing you there!

We will be ordering off the menu.

Thank you,

Roger

2. MB Technical Questions Answered

Member Gregg Semanchick has volunteered to address any Mercedes-related technical questions you may have.

email: gre423gg@gmail.com

phone: 570-449-4980

3. Members' Corner

Meet our new members:

Jay Edwards of Clifton Heights PA (2008 E63AMG)

Chante Franklin of Philadelphia PA (2021 GLB)

Mike Grissinger of Washington Crossing PA (2024 E450)

Antoine Khalil of Allentown PA (2003 SL500)

Russell Robertson of Fleetwood PA (SL63AMG)

Barbara Stallworth of Philadelphia PA (S550)

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)

4. 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/>

5. Past Events

Road Rally October 11

Seems everyone had such a good time, no one wrote it up. Ron always makes them fun and interesting. Be sure to sign up for the next one.

NEPA Brunch November 9

We started these so that our members could get together during the winter months when auto events taper off for the unpredictable cold-weather season.

We had another great turnout for this brunch. -- 18 of us! We will continue with these throughout 2025. Hope to see you at these in the future.

**NEPA Election/Planning Meeting
Starlite Diner
Foglesville, PA
Thursday, November 13, 2024**

This year our NEPA Election/Planning Meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, October 17 at Hops at the Paddock had to be rescheduled. In order to ensure we had as many people as possible, we sent out a survey to everyone who RSVP'd yes to the October date and the meeting was held on Thursday, November 13. Originally scheduled to take place at Hops at the Paddock, it was moved to the Starlite Diner in Foglesville.

We had a very nice turnout with several of our non-board members attending, too. We thank everyone for attending and contributing to our 2025 Calendar of Events and Election.

The 2025 Calendar of Events is listed in the very first section of this newsletter.

Election Results:

Elections are usually held every 2 years. But because we needed to fill vacancies and it's only been a year since our last election, these positions will be available to be voted on again in 2025 for a term of 2 years.

During the meeting Brian Ramthun was approved by the board as our Treasurer for a term of one 1 year. Brian replaced our former Treasurer, Jolanta Piekarski, who resigned for health reasons. Jolanta served as treasurer since the inception of the NEPA Section. Thank you Jolanta for the excellent work and the great food you provided to us for so many years. You will be missed.

Alice Christensen, NEPA Newsletter Editor, was also approved by the board as our new Secretary also for a term of 1 year. Alice replaces Debbie Egolf, who also has served for many years and resigned due to health. Thank you Debbie for all the time and love you put into this position. We look forward to seeing you at future events as your health continues to improve.

Gregg Semanchick agreed to serve as our technical advisor and will be available to answer NEPA Members' technical questions. Gregg can be reached at gre423gg@gmail.com and by phone at [570-449-4980](tel:570-449-4980).

Christmas/Holiday Party at Madeline's, Fogelsville, PA

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

This year the 2nd floor event planning venue was already booked, but we were able to reserve the 'Tent Room'. Although the room looked smaller in photos than it actually was, it was able to accommodate all 35 of us comfortably. The setup was festive. The service and food were impeccable.

Jaimie, the Event planner, did a fantastic job putting our party together. She handled the setup, creating a 'plated' event for us as opposed to buffet style, including name tags with attendees' food choices. The Bar and servers were excellent.

We were fortunate to get John Bleimaier to present again this year. He had a great slide show of interesting cars from various museum and auto shows he and Marina attended. Marina runs the slide show. Thank you, John and Marina!





Photos courtesy of Gina Mattera.

5. NEPA Board of Directors elects a new Treasurer

NEPA Board of Directors elected **Brian Ramthun** as our new Treasurer. Welcome Brian!

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.

6. NEPA Board of Directors elects a new Secretary

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.

Alice Christensen was approved as our NEPA club's secretary.

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

MBCA's website 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.

8. Past Items of Interest

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 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)



Associate Members emails:

We would like to have each member who has a spouse or partner, to list that person at no additional cost, as an associate member, and to list their email address so they also get the newsletters and other updates directly. You can do that by logging into the MBCA.org web site (also notify editor if you want the associate member to receive emailed newsletters and eBlasts), or email the information to [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).

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 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 \$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.mbc.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

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

MBCA Northeastern PA Section Logo Clothing Available!

A diverse line of quality men's and women's *Lands' End* activewear, outerwear, shirts, sweaters and other items are available with our MBCA Section logo.

Visit the *Lands' End* website at <http://business.landsend.com> to browse the catalog or email them at businessoutfitters@landsend.com.

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

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, and please cc your Newsletter Editor 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.




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

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