

Northeastern
Pennsylvania Section

Mercedes-Benz
Club of America

nepa.mbca.org



Shining Star Fall 2015 Newsletter

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President's Message

Our section had a busy summer of great events. Hopefully you will be able to attend at least one of our fall events listed in this newsletter. New this year is the Tinicum Park Polo Club on October 3rd when we will watch a polo match and participate in Charlie Chukker during half time. This event was suggested by our previous president Barbara Fiedler, and it should be a grand event. We will be parking together. Bring you picnic lunch. It's time to try something new (for those like me, who have never attended a polo match)!

Our section is giving pins in recognition of years as a member of our section, for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years of continuing membership to show our appreciation for being a continuing member of our section. Pins will be awarded at events members attend (if we missed you, let an officer know). Awarded at the Carriage Tour/Boyertown Museum Tour: Bob Steele 15 year pin and John Frailey 5 year pin. Awarded at Das Awkscht Fescht: Bob Haas 10 year pin. Congratulations!

Reminder, wear you name badges to all events. If you don't have one, member & associate member may order one for \$5 (our section will pay the difference). Let an officer know you want one at an event. You may pick it up at the next event after you are notified it is ready.

I look forward to seeing you at a fall event, especially our planning dinner Oct 22 when we will be planning our section events for the 2016 calendar year. Bring your ideas, bring your 2016 calendar (to pick dates you may be available), and enjoy a meal sponsored by our section.

Happy motoring,
Mike Ziegler



News



Ziegler's RV will again be sponsoring FREE General Admission Tickets to the Reading Fightin Phils minor league baseball games at FirstEnergy Stadium in Reading PA, to our NEPA section members, but this year they will be for the playoff home games. Tickets may be picked up at Ziegler's RV during business hours or at the Stadium "Will Call" window the day of the game (if you let me know in advance 610-504-5370). Limit of 4 free tickets per member family. Optional reserved seat and buffet dinner available for a \$10 per person donation and First Pitch for \$20 donation, to our MBCA Northeastern Section. Supplies are limited.

Contact: Mike Ziegler at mikez@ZieglersRV.com or 610-504-5370 cell/text

Pennsylvania license plates with the Mercedes-Benz Club of America organization on them are available. These organizational plates are only available to MBCA members in good standing who reside in PA.



nepa.mbca.org/pennsylvania-mbca-plates



Meet our New Members

Donald Abrey, Wyalusing, PA
Peter Brohl, Easton, PA, 1981 380SL, 1995 SL600
Kristian Castellano, New Tripoli, PA
Steven Chmielewski, Sinking Spring, PA
Stuart Field, Allentown, PA
Jonathan Fleck, Oley, PA
Dominic Gentile, Reading, PA, 2000 CLK430, 2007 CLS63 AMG
Joseph Kowalski, Turbotville, PA, 1979 300SD
Dan Kunkel, Old Forge, PA, 2002 CL55 AMG
George Mall, Mt. Carmel, PA
John McCormick, Northampton, PA
Will Mizgerd-Sprague, Salisbury Township, PA
Aaron Newman, Nazareth, PA
Howard Sherer, Allentown, PA
George Shields, Easton, PA, 1985 380SL
John Terefencko, Selingsgrove, PA, 2007 SLK350, 2005 SL500
Brent Watts, Wyomissing, PA, 1993 500E
Wesley Wormser, Bernville, PA
David Ziembicki, Lake Ariel, PA, 2015 Interstate

KNOPF **AUTOMOTIVE**

Proud to be a sponsor for the Northeast Pa Mercedes-Benz Club. We have been doing business in the Lehigh Valley for over 45 years. Knopf has been consistently rated as one of the top 10 best Mercedes dealerships in Sales and Service Satisfaction Nationally. We provide factory trained technicians, and have the latest service and diagnostic equipment available. See why there is a significant difference when servicing your Mercedes-Benz.

Stop in and see Club Member and Sales and Leasing Specialist Jim Sangiorgio for your next car or SUV. On your first visit Jim will give you your ID card which entitles you to a discount of 20% off parts and service repairs for club members as well as free loaner cars, and lifetime free state inspection when you purchase from Knopf Automotive.

Contact Jim at jsangiorgio@knopfauto.com, or at 610-967-0787.



Previous Events



On July 11th, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America had a large turnout at the Deutsche Classic. An all German car show and swap meet in Oley, PA. There was a large representation of Mercedes-Benz models ranging in years. A great casual event with many rare cars from multiple Marques. Besides the classic Benzes and large number of AMGs there were some rare Opels and a very large variety of BMW, Audi, Porsche, and VW to see. Bring the family and look for us at the next Deutsche Classic.





Carriage Tour, auto driving tour, & the Boyertown Auto Museum

On July 25th we had a great day event. In the morning we had 25 people attend the private tour of Harry Tucci's collection of over 50 carriages and over 12 antique and classic Rolls-Royce and Bentleys. Then we took a driving tour of the West Chester area back roads and historic sites on the way



to the Boyertown Auto Museum. We had 27 people attend the Museum. It was a great day viewing rare carriages and automobiles. If you missed the Boyertown Auto Museum, it is open to the public and if you get a chance, stop in to see all the Pennsylvania built cars, and an old diner moved into the museum.

www.boyertownmuseum.org





Das Awkscht Fescht

Our Section organized the Mercedes-Benz area at Das Awkscht Fescht at Macungie Memorial Park on Sunday, August 2nd, with seven Mercedes, all at least 25 years old, on display. We put up our club tent, so members and others could stop by to have a bottle of water and talk about cars. The weather was great and all attendees had a great

time.

Annual Shrimp Boil

Walter and Jolanta Piekarski hosted the Section's annual Shrimp Boil at the Shore Point and Yacht Marina in Pine Beach, NJ on Saturday, August 8th. Nine section members attended and enjoyed interesting conversation, great food, nice weather and a wonderful view of the bay. If you have never attended this event, you don't know what you are missing. Be sure to come next year!



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Upcoming Events



19th Annual Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

Motorsports Park

Mid-Atlantic Regional Event

Sunday Sept 13th 9:00am to 4:00pm at 826 Providence Road, Malvern PA 19355

FEATURED CLASSES Packard, Alfa Romeo and Classic Pickup Trucks To Share Radnor Hunt Show Field with BMW Motorcycles, Police Motorcycles and Land Speed Record Holders

There will be a designated area for the Mercedes Benz Club, for those who bring a Mercedes Benz, close to the entrance in what is called the MotorSport Park.

The event is held rain or shine. Admission for the driver and vehicle is \$60. This includes admission to the event, a show poster, show program and a dash plaque. Each additional passenger is \$35 which includes their show ticket and a program. Please note: Space is limited in the Motor Sport Park to 25 Mercedes Benz cars. After that, you would have to park in the general admission section (a further walk to the entrance) and the cost is the same. Gates open for the MotorSport Park at 9:00 AM. If you register, but don't bring a Mercedes Benz, you will have to park in the general parking area.

Coordinator: Joe Grattan, Mid Atlantic Regional Director josephgrattan@aol.com
Alternate contact: Mike Ziegler, president Northeastern PA
Section mikez@ZieglersRV.com
610-504-5370 cell/text

radnorconcours.org/event-details/sunday/car-club-parking



Join us for our annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic at Faulkenhurst

Saturday September 19th - 11am to 4pm

Location: John Bleimaier's Faulkenhurst, 41 Moore's Mill Rose Road, Hopewell NJ 08525

As always, we will have a small show of cars, prizes and of course great company! This year we will be having a pig roast, complete with sides. We encourage all who attend to enter their cars in our mini show. There is no fee for this picnic, but we do ask you to bring a side-dish to share with other attendees. We eat around noon.



Saturday, October 3rd

961 River Rd, Erwinna, PA
Across the Delaware River from Frenchtown, NJ and one mile south.

Come and enjoy a Polo Match on October 3rd, British Festival, the last game of the season. Games begin at 2 pm, gates open at 1 pm.

\$10/car for field side access and door prize ticket. Park your vehicle field side and enjoy a tailgate party. When you arrive, let the parking person know you want to park in the Mercedes Benz Club section.

Bring a Picnic lunch and be creative. The winner of the best picnic lunch presentation will be announced and listed in the next newsletter.

Stomp divots between chukkars. Walk around and meet the players and their ponies. At half time those who are interested may join the Champagne Divot Stomp at half time, where you join a champagne toast as you help repair the field. It's easy - find a divot, replace, stomp and repeat. Charlie Chukker: at half time, try your hand at hitting a polo ball off the metal horse, for free.

In case of inclement weather please call the polo hotline 908-996-3321 option 2.

For more information on the Polo Event, go to: www.tinicumparkpoloclub.org

For latest up to date info on this event, go to: nepa.mbca.org/upcoming-events

Contact: Mike Ziegler | 610-504-5370

2016 Planning Dinner for all NEPA members

Thursday, 10/22/2015 - 6:15pm - 8:30pm

Perkins, 3400 Lehigh St. | Allentown - Pennsylvania | 18103

You are an important part of our club, so bring ideas and suggestions you think would improve our club. We will meet in the private room in the back of the Perkins Restaurant.

This event is for the MBCA-NEPA Section member & associate member. Since this is a meeting to plan for next year's events, no children permitted. As a thank you for helping with the planning for your club, the club will pay the dinner for our NEPA member & associate member (ex: spouse)

Contact Mike Ziegler mikez@ZieglersRV.com or 610-504-5370 cell/text if you have any questions or to RSVP.

[Click here to RSVP via email](#)





DEMONSTRATION DAYS: Der Beste Von Deutschland!

The November 14th Demo Days event is entitled "Der Beste Von Deutschland!" (The Best of Germany!). The event pays homage to German race cars, featuring national favorites from the 1920s, 1930s, 1950s, and 1970s. Great international winners of their time, the event will include: 1927 Mercedes Benz S-Type Sportwagen, 1937 BMW 328, 1955 Mercedes 300SL Gullwing (with Rudge wheels and shaved bumpers) and a 1970 Porsche 917 LH. Of notable interest, Simeone's 1927 Sportwagen raced at Nürburgring, while the Porsche 917 LH placed second in the 1970 24 Hours of LeMans.

In addition to Demonstration Day activities, your admission includes access to the entire Simeone Foundation collection - housed in its 78,000 square foot hangar-like museum. Considered to be among the top automotive museums in the USA, Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum is a niche of motordom - the successful sports racer - purpose-built race cars for roads. Dr. Simeone has spent a lifetime assembling a collection of more than 65 racing sports cars of artistic and historical significance. Many of the cars on display have been restored to their original glory, though many have been preserved in their original state. The ability to not only experience the car as it was during its heyday - with original leather and "first" paint - enables the visitor to reflect on the occasional battle scar obtained during a historical run on the Bonneville Salt Flats, Nürburgring, Mille Miglia, Targa Florio or LeMans.

[Click Here for more information](#)

Annual Holiday Dinner Saturday December 5

If you have a suggestion for a place to hold the Annual Holiday Party, somewhere in our NEPA section (last year it was at our Treasure's home), contact Mike Ziegler 610-504-5370 cell/text, mikez@zieglersrv.com



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MBCA-NEPA Classifieds

1987 Mercedes Benz 560SL for sale. My uncle's estate has a beautiful, red luxury sports car, with 89000 miles available for immediate sale. Uncle purchased in 1998, drove for only about 10,000 miles over last 17 years. 5.6L V8, automatic transmission, tan leather interior, and removable hardtop. Garage kept, newly inspected and ready to go. Asking \$11,000, but all serious offers will be considered. Contact Rod at 484-894-3052.



1968 Mercedes-Benz 230 Fintail W110 Sedan 4-Speed Manual. Purchased in 1982 and lovingly maintained since. The car was refreshed in the early 1990s and the paint was changed to a period correct Mercedes-Benz green metallic. Originally an automatic transmission car, it is currently equipped with a four speed manual. Runs and drives great. Current PA Inspection. Solid car with no major rust. Contact Neal at 610-867-1718 for more information. \$7200

[Click here for more information](#)



MBCA Car Flags available for sale

Blue car flags with the MBCA logo on both sides are on order. They fit on the side windows. They are good for caravan driving events to make it easier to keep together, or for any MBCA event to show your support. They should be delivered to Mike Ziegler at the Deutsche Classic Show July 11th or at most events after that (preferably email Mike Ziegler which event you want to get it and pay by check to MBCA-NEPA).

Selling your Mercedes-Benz or related item?

NEPA Section members are permitted to list one free ad with photo in each Shining Star newsletter.

Contact us at nepa.mbca@gmail.com to submit your ad

 <p>USED AUTO SERVICES European Automobile Recycling</p>	<p>Quality Used Mercedes Part 610-814-7858 info@UsedAutoServices.com</p> <p>Located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania We buy European Cars in any condition www.UsedAutoServices.com</p>
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Member Contributions

WHATS IN A NAME?

Mercedes-Benz U.S.A is rebranding itself in the next few years. There will soon be Mercedes-Benz, Mercedes-AMG, and Mercedes-Maybach. This is a new branding strategy to compete closer to it's main competitors.

Let's start with it's main competitors, Audi and BMW. MB will now be offering cars that are more inline with the performance of their nearest rivals. Here's an example. Currently Audi has the A4, S4/S5 and RS5, BMW has the 3/4 Series, their upper performing 340 Series, and of course the M Series. Mercedes will soon have the C Class, C450 AMG, and the AMG C63. The philosophy behind this will start in 2016 with the launch of the newest C Class cars.

If you're following this, you're doing well. It gets a bit more confusing, but here's another example. The C450 AMG, is not a true AMG in the sense that it's engine is not hand built, but it has some AMG components, such as improved braking, enhanced engine performance and handling. These cars will compete closer to the Audi S4/S5 and BMW 340 Models and offer prospects more opportunities to increase performance. The AMG C63 will compete with Audi's RS Models and BMW's M Models, or the ultra-performance offerings. Since the model starts with AMG, it is the highest performance car offered in the C Class range. AMG lettering after the model number is not the highest performer.

Mercedes-Maybach re-launches the brand and will offer more competition for the Bentley and Rolls Royce crowd with its uber luxury offering on a stretched S Class Chassis. The interior is second to none and doesn't have any vinyl anywhere. That's right, everything is covered in leather. One will have a vast array of choices of color and options such as Champagne flutes in Sterling Silver and a removable fridge. That's what you call keeping up with the Jones'.

Now to the new nomenclature which will start with the newly launched 2016 GLE formerly the 2015 M Class. Since the launch of the new in 2014 A-Class, Mercedes-Benz made room by pushing the C Class to a higher level of luxury and engineering. You could call it the baby S Class. It is in the truest sense of the word no longer entry level. Stay with me. The new nomenclature is as follows:

A Class expanded to include the GLA Class. From this point forward, all SUV's will have model GL and then the model platform. The GLA is the first and is based on the CLA platform, or A Class platform. The soon to be launched GLC will be based on the C Class platform, the GLE, the E Class platform. Next year, Mercedes-Benz will launch the 2017 GLS, based on the..., you guessed it, S Class platform. MBUSA feels this make the brands easier to identify and understand which class you're dealing with. Huh?

The final change will also be next year which will be a re-branded SLK Roadster, soon to be called the SLC because of its C Class platform, SL because it's in the 2 door Roadster class. SEE how easy this is?

Contributed by Jim Sangiorgio

"Anthracite"

As a 24th birthday present to myself, in May of 1974 I purchased a 280SE, a stately automobile with timeless grace. I have owned it ever since, and I now enjoy keeping it in the finest possible condition as befits its style and quality. I bought it from its original owner via a newspaper listing in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The 280SE, with its rare and pleasing color combination (173 Anthracite Grey with 136 grey interior) had been built in January 1971 to special order.

You may wonder why I was convinced at such a young age that this car was noteworthy. I grew up in a town of fewer than 5,000 people approximately 25 miles from St. Paul. I have been interested in cars since before I can remember. I was unaware of the Mercedes product line until about 1967, when one came in to the Ford dealer's garage for a tune-up. I had never seen a car like this, with the large chrome

grille, the stacked front headlights, the sumptuous curves of the front fenders and hood, the subtle fins on the back, and the massive chrome bumpers. It was a black sedan with a red interior. It must have been a 250S, as the engine had two carburetors. As George, the mechanic, did the tune-up, I spent a lot of time cleaning in and around his area, asking him all kinds of questions. As George completed the job, connected it to the Sun engine analyzer, and revved the engine. I was amazed at how tight and smooth it sounded.

Then George asked me if I had time to deliver the car to its owner, who lived four miles away.

He didn't have to ask twice.

I hadn't really noticed the interior until I sat in it. "Wow, is this real wood on the dash?" I asked George. "Yup," he replied. I backed the Benz from his stall and carefully drove it out of the shop. I remember seeing that star on the front hood as I motored a few blocks down Main Street, turning on the street where the owner lived. The road wound gently uphill, flanked by steep embankments on both sides. I had trouble watching the road, because my eyes were busily trying to absorb everything that was going on. The speedometer actually changed color the faster I went. I was going about 35 mph, five miles over the speed limit, when I said to myself, "Let's press this gas pedal to the floor and see what she can do." I was astounded when the transmission downshifted; the revs went up as the sound of the engine bounced off the hills on both sides of me. Wow. I had never experienced such a sound as that engine pulling the Benz up the hill.

Thoughts raced through my mind: "What kind of car is this? Can I afford one? When can I get one?" Even at the age of 17, living in a small town, my first experience with a Mercedes-Benz convinced me I must someday own one.

Then in 1974 I saw the ad in the St. Paul newspaper for a 1971 Mercedes 280SE with only 19,000 miles on her. When I saw the car, I immediately fell in love with the color and the body lines. My "new" 280SE was my daily driver for a few years, though each fall I would buy a \$500 car and keep the Mercedes on jack stands in the garage through the Minnesota winter. One year I was able to keep the "winter beater" as my daily driver, and I decided to put the Benz aside to enjoy in my retirement.

Since then, I've spent many hours cleaning, polishing, and maintaining her. I try to do most of my own work, but usually work with a friend on the bigger jobs and have been privileged to have good friends to help. Today in my garage, even an oil change is a joy. I crawl under Anthracite on the floor and stretch the work out to a four-hour job just for the pleasure of working on her. And, of course, she gets a carnauba wax and her interior cleaned and conditioned regularly.

Anthracite now has just over 42,000 miles on her odometer. She gets regular exercise when the weather is just right, with low humidity and a temperature between 70F and 80F. A 30-40 mile spirited drive on the back roads of southeastern Pennsylvania is what she seems to like these days. We both have smiles on our faces when the trip is

completed. She loves to rev as designed as much as I love to hear her revving up through the gears. I leave the driver's window down and the radio off so I can listen to her sing. I even enjoy cleaning the road dust off the car when I return. I'm fortunate to have such a play toy that completely consumes me at the moment. I have owned her for more than half of my life, and I truly enjoy her every day.

Contributed by Bob Steele

[Follow Anthracite on facebook](#)



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SAVE THE DATE

September 13, 2015 - [Radnor Hunt Concours d' Elegance, Malvern PA](#)

September 19, 2015 - Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Picnic at Faulkenhurst, Hopewell, NJ

October 3, 2015 - [Tinicum Park Polo Club Event, Erwinna, PA](#)

October 22, 2015 - [2016 NEPA Planning Dinner, Allentown, PA](#)

November 14, 2015 - [Simeone Automotive Museum - Der Beste von Deutschland](#)

December 5, 2015 - Annual NEPA Holiday Dinner

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Questions? Email your Section Officer or contact our National Business Office
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