

# BADGER *Star*

Dec '24—Jan '25

[mbca.org/section/wisconsin](http://mbca.org/section/wisconsin)



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA WISCONSIN SECTION

# President's Message

Welcome to the final edition of the Badger Star for 2024

I begin by thanking everyone who organized an event during 2024:

Mo Afshar

Ricardo & Laura Becerra

Bernd & Christine Kampe

Dick & Nancy Kusch

Frank & Cathy Lubinski

Jan Miller

Nancy & Dean Pearson

JoAnne Peterson

and lastly, my wonderful wife Deb.

Speaking of events, your Chapter enjoyed two great ones since the last issue. Read about both the Fall Color Tour and our Christmas Party and Annual Meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

## 2025 Events

We begin 2025 with our 7th Annual Valentine's Drive-to-Dine. Join us Sunday, February 9th when we return to the Fox & Hounds in Hubertus for this very popular event. Get all the details in the event announcement elsewhere in the newsletter.

Other events already scheduled for 2025 are listed on the Event Calendar elsewhere in this newsletter.

## A New Column

A new column will appear in the upcoming issues of the *Badger Star*, Todd's Corner. Todd Knutson is a board member and has been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter for 30+ years. His new column will tap into his wealth of knowledge of all things Mercedes, so be sure and check it out!

## Board Member Update

The members of your Wisconsin Chapter Board of Directors remain the same for calendar 2025.

No one stepped forward to volunteer for service on the Board, and with the resignation of Mo Afshar earlier in the year, we are operating one member short of a full Board. Your 2025 officers also remain the same:

President Bruce Hamilton

Vice President Bernd Kampe

Secretary Dan Hellenberg

Treasurer Frank Lubinski

## Membership Matters

New members joining Sept 22–December 6 and those members celebrating milestone anniversaries in December 2024 and January 2025 are all listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Congratulations and welcome to all!

## Stepping Down

I have had the honor as serving as President of the Wisconsin Chapter since January 2014. It's been a period filled with highs and lows; but most importantly it's been a rewarding experience and a privilege serving you, the membership. I've contemplated stepping down before and have been encouraged to remain. The end of 2025 will mark my 12th year. I look forward to serving you until that time, but at the end of

2025 I will be stepping down from the President's role.

I also want to extend a special Thank You! to Todd Knutson for his very flattering comments regarding my extended tenure as president made at our Christmas Party and Annual Meeting. I am both honored and humbled by Todd's remarks. Very rarely do you see me speechless, but that was one of those moments.

I close these remarks by thanking each and every one of you for being a member of the Wisconsin Chapter. It's our members who make this Chapter successful. I look forward to seeing all of you in person at an upcoming event.



Best regards,

Bruce Hamilton

[bruce.hamilton@cpa.com](mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com)

# NEWSLETTER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Presidents Message	2	Christmas Party Recap	6
Membership Benefits/ Membership Update	3	Name Badge Order Form	7
Contacts	3	Fall Color Tour Recap	8
Milestone Anniversaries and New Members	4	Valentine's Day D2D	8
Board Members Wanted	4	Event Hosting Policy	9
Event Calendar	5	Event Refund Policy	9
		Sponsors	9,10

---

# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

---

Subscription to "The Star", a bimonthly magazine published by Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Discounted price off a New Mercedes-Benz

Discounts on parts, service and accessories from participating Mercedes-Benz Dealerships

15% off parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center

Expert technical advice to help you maintain, service, condition, restore and repair you Mercedes-Benz

And best of all, participation in the many events provided by your local Mercedes-Benz Club of America

## UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD

Recently MBCA made some major changes at the National level. Among them was the implementation of a completely new membership database. That new database requires that all members update their membership profile to ensure that the new database is as accurate as possible.

To update your membership profile, please go to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org), log-in and then update your membership profile. You may have to re-register since membership details did not transfer from the old database to the new.

If you do not have access to the internet you need to call the National business office at (719) 633-6427 and ask Natasha to help you update your records. She is available Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Mountain Time.

If you go to voicemail, please leave a message; Natasha is very good about calling back, though it might take a day or two. She can then help you.

President

*Bruce Hamilton*

608-754-6066

[bruce.hamilton@cpa.com](mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com)

Vice President

*Bernd Kampe*

262-492-4441

[bkampe0@gmail.com](mailto:bkampe0@gmail.com)

Secretary

*Dan Hellenberg*

414-839-6995

[spatlese44@yahoo.com](mailto:spatlese44@yahoo.com)

Treasurer

*Frank Lubinski*

414-520-2912

[frank\\_lubinski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frank_lubinski@sbcglobal.net)

Director

*Todd Knutson*

414-477-8478

[benzdude10@gmail.com](mailto:benzdude10@gmail.com)

Director

*Dick Kusch*

608-630-1458

[kuschrichard@gmail.com](mailto:kuschrichard@gmail.com)

Director

*Chad Winter*

414-303-9585

[chad@crs-wi.com](mailto:chad@crs-wi.com)

Director

*Nancy Pearson*

262-782-7960

[nancypearson431@gmail.com](mailto:nancypearson431@gmail.com)

Director

*Position Open*

Webmaster

*Volunteer Needed!*

Newsletter Editor

*Chad Winter*

414-303-9585

[chad@crs-wi.com](mailto:chad@crs-wi.com)

---

## CLUB BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month. Meetings are held online using GoToMeeting. Attendees call in using a phone, tablet or computer.

We encourage participation from our members. If you wish to participate, and receive an invitation for a meeting, please contact Bruce Hamilton at [bruce.hamilton@cpa.com](mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com) or 608-754-6066.

Recommendations for new activities or comments on prior events are always welcome.

---

# Milestone Anniversaries and New Members

---

December 2024 – January 2025 Milestone Anniversaries

<u>Member</u>	<u>Years</u>
Lynn Pearson	25
Jeffrey Kraemer	15
Vyacheslav Petelin	10

## New Members September 22 – December 6

	Join Date
Christopher Weifenbach	November 23
Robert Hume	November 12
Dr Chris Stout	November 3
James Mickowski	November 2
Kelly Mortrud	October 16
Jon Mortrud	October 16
Joseph Padrutt	September 24

The above information is obtained from the MBCA National Database. If you feel any of this information is in error, please contact the MBCA National office at (719) 633-6427 or [info@mbca.org](mailto:info@mbca.org). Please DO NOT contact the Wisconsin Chapter to update your information. All updates/changes/corrections must be made through the MBCA National office.

---

## WANTED – BOARD MEMBERS

---

The Wisconsin Chapter is seeking members who have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Three positions are open.

All three (3) positions are for regular three year board terms beginning in January 2025 and running through December 2027.

Board members meet once a month for between one and two hours to plan and direct Chapter activities and establish policies and procedures for Chapter events. Among other things, the Board is responsible for developing and maintaining a running twelve-month calendar of events and capturing requests from members for activities & events.

Board members DO NOT have to travel to attend board meetings; all meetings are conducted using the Chapter's **GoToMeeting** web conferencing software.

Members who sit on the Board of Directors should be willing and able to:

- Attend a majority of monthly board meetings held throughout the year.
- Participate in periodic e-mail exchanges to achieve Board & Chapter objectives.
- Attend Chapter functions throughout the year.
- Be willing to host or co-host an event. An event can be as simple as hosting a Drive-2-Dine or as elaborate as planning and hosting a rallye.

Be a proactive and positive representative of MBCA and the Wisconsin Chapter

Serving on the board of directors is a great way to meet other members and increase your involvement in the Chapter. If you are interested in serving on the Board please contact either:

Secretary Dan Hellenberg at [spatlese44@yahoo.com](mailto:spatlese44@yahoo.com) or

Bruce Hamilton at [bruce.hamilton@cpa.com](mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com)

# Wisconsin Section Club Events 2025

Date	Event—Location	Host—Contact Information
February 9th	Valentine's D-2-D, Fox & Hounds, Hubertus	Bruce Hamilton 608.754.6066 <a href="mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com">bruce.hamilton@cpa.com</a>
March TBA	Fish Fry, Location TBA White Elephant auction benefitting charity	
April 26th	Hartford Auto Museum w/lunch @ Mineshaft Hartford date tentative	
May 17th	Gus's Drive In, East Troy	
June 8th	Car Show at The Corners of Brookfield,	Nancy & Dean Pearson <a href="mailto:nancypearson431@gmail.com">nancypearson431@gmail.com</a>
Date TBA – June or July	Sunset Cruise @ Road America with meal at Siebkens Resort	
July 4th	Germantown July 4th Parade	Jan Miller 262-352-8250 <a href="mailto:jandmiller4@att.net">jandmiller4@att.net</a>
August 9th	German-American Day – Carl Schurz Park	Bernd Kampe <a href="mailto:bkampe0@gmail.com">bkampe0@gmail.com</a>
TBA	D-2-D Oshkosh area	Dick & Nancy Kusch <a href="mailto:kuschrichard@gmail.com">kuschrichard@gmail.com</a>
September 13th	Autocross/Defensive Driving Event	Nancy Pearson / Bruce Hamilton <a href="mailto:nancypearson431@gmail.com">nancypearson431@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com">bruce.hamilton@cpa.com</a>
September 28th	Oktoberfest & Car Show at Dheinsville Park, Germantown	Jan Miller 262-352-8250 <a href="mailto:jandmiller4@att.net">jandmiller4@att.net</a>
October 18th	D-2-D & Color Tour, Mineral Point area	Dick & Nancy Kusch <a href="mailto:kuschrichard@gmail.com">kuschrichard@gmail.com</a>
November TBA	Event at or in conjunction with Uman-sky/MB North Shore	
December 7th	Christmas Party and Annual Meeting	

[mbca.org/section/wisconsin](http://mbca.org/section/wisconsin)

[facebook.com/mbcawi](https://facebook.com/mbcawi)

For the most current Events List visit our Website or FacebookPage



# 2024 Christmas Party & Annual Meeting Review

Sunday December 8, 2024

50 members and guests gathered at the Golden Mast on Lake Okauchee for our Christmas Party and Annual Meeting. With mild weather and no rain or snow, members began gathering well before 11:30 in the Golden Mast's festively decorated banquet hall for conversation, catching up with one another and exchanging Christmas greetings.

Everyone enjoyed The Golden Mast's fabulous champagne Sunday brunch while the slide show recapping 2024 events played continuously.

After brunch President Bruce Hamilton conducted our annual meeting. Dan Hellenberg presented the Secretary's report, and mentioned that no one stepped up to serve as a Director. The Board remains the same, and continues to operate 1 member short of a full compliment of board members. Frank Lubinski covered the Treasurer's report and reviewed the Chapter's financial condition.

Bruce then recognized the Board and all those who hosted events during 2024. The 2025 event calendar was reviewed and the first event of 2025, our 7th Annual Valentine's Drive-to-Dine was highlighted.

Todd Knutson asked to address the membership. He commented on the success we have had in obtaining sponsorship from Umansky and others, and how that support allows the Club to subsidize events like the Christmas party for the benefit of the membership.

Next was the presentation of the Member of the Year Award. This year's recipient was Chad Winter. Chad was presented his award for his willingness to step up and serve as our Newsletter Editor along with his duties as a Board member. Congratulations Chad!

Bruce then announced that after 12 years as President, 2025 will be his last year. The Annual Meeting concluded on a very positive note with a group picture and everyone looking forward to 2025. The day didn't end there, as many remained long after the Meeting enjoying the Gemütlichkeit!

Bruce & Deb Hamilton



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ck1P9MzZuTbE5rjeA>



# 2024 Christmas Party & Annual Meeting



## Section Name Badge Order Form

### Order New Wisconsin Name Badges

Badge #1 ☐

Badge #2 ☐ (please print clearly)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3rd-line option (for current or past club officers)

\_\_\_\_\_



*Standard badge fastener is magnetic. If you prefer a Safety Pin fastener check box ☐ next to badge number above*

**Badge Price is \$9.50each. Mail form and your check to:**

**House of Engraving, LLC 4411 N. Oakland Ave. Shorewood, WI 53211**



---

# Fall Color Tour Recap

---

We had a total of 25 MBCA members, including a few from the Chicagoland Chapter join us on this scenic fall color tour drive through the winding hills and valleys of Western Wisconsin.

The tour began with a group brunch at the Log Cabin restaurant & bakery in historic Baraboo, WI. The weekend weather was sunny and warm, perfect for those who were driving their convertible MB cars.

Hwy 33 from Baraboo to LaCrosse winds through Amish farm country and offered numerous sightseeing opportunities along the bluffs and valleys of this Coulee region.

Our group dinner was at the Freight House Restaurant and lodging was arranged at the Gundersen Hotel & Suites.

Sunday's tour routes offered an opportunity to explore the Great River Road (both Hwy 35 and 61)

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FRpgWnHCxmbPUZW6A>



---

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine's Drive-to-Dine

---



Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Where: The Fox & Hounds Restaurant & Tavern

1298 Friess Lake Rd

Hubertus WI 53033

Time: 12:00 noon



Cost: \$40.00/person, including coffee, tea, or soft drinks, tax & gratuity

Join fellow Wisconsin Section members at our 7th Annual Valentine's Drive-to-Dine. It may be the Sunday before Valentine's Day, but you can still bring your sweetheart (and I don't mean just your MB!).

Enjoy a great Sunday brunch and gemütlichkeit at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant & Tavern, 1298 Friess Lake Rd, Hubertus. Click for Map

The price of \$40.00 per person includes Sunday Brunch and coffee, tea or soft drinks. A cash bar is available for those wishing an adult beverage.

Reservations Due by Tuesday February 5th

RSVP to Bruce Hamilton at [bruce.hamilton@cpa.com](mailto:bruce.hamilton@cpa.com) or 608-754-6066

PayPal is the preferred payment method, go to <http://www.paypal.me/MBCAWisconsin>

If you prefer to pay by check, make your check in the amount of \$40.00 for each person attending payable to "MBCA Wisconsin Section" and mail to Bruce at

Bruce Hamilton

4225 Southwyck Dr

Janesville WI 53546-2120

Note: You are not registered for the event until both your RSVP and your payment are received!

Note: Event Refund Policy in Effect for this Event



---

## Event Hosting Policy

---

As a means to getting more people involved with running events, Wisconsin Chapter MBCA (the Club) will give one event admission for hosting or co-hosting an event. If there is a single host, one event admission will be given; if there is a co-host, we will give one additional admission to event. The term "host" is defined as a member and their spouse/significant other.

For area car rallyes the Club will give a \$75.00 driving allowance and one event admission. If the rallye is outside of the Milwaukee, Madison or Green Bay metro-areas the Club will give a \$100.00 driving allowance and one event admission.

For each type of major event (Christmas Party, Valentine's Day Brunch, Car Show & similar) the Club will budget an amount of club support to run the event. This will be beyond monies charged for the event.

The Wisconsin Chapter MBCA exists to plan events that the members will enjoy. We do not exist to make money, we want to come out even (break even overall). In some instances this will result in the Club subsidizing an event (examples: Christmas Party, Car Show).

---

## Event Refund Policy

---

For events which require advanced reservation and prepayment (Christmas Party, Valentine's D-2-D, Rallye, German-American Day and similar events) the following Event Refund Policy will apply.

Cancellations received before the reservation cut-off date will be eligible, at the request of the member, to a full refund. In the event the original payment was made using PayPal, the refund will be limited to the amount paid less the PayPal fees.

Cancellations made after the reservation cut-off date **will not** be eligible for a refund, regardless of the reason for the cancellation. This is because the Section is obligated to the event venue or the number of attendees reserved for the event.

All refunds will be made via a check mailed by the Section Treasurer to the member at their address of record as shown on the Membership Roster as maintained by the MBCA National office.

Policy adopted by the Board of Directors January 12, 2024



### BROOKLYN MOTOREN WERKE INC

Wisconsin's longest operating independent Mercedes-Benz garage invites you to take advantage of over 40 years of expertise in Mercedes-Benz service, restoration, and renewal.

#### Service for All Mercedes Models

- Repairs for models from 1950 to 2014
- Engine & transmission rebuilding
- Performance & reliability upgrades

#### New, Used, and NOS Parts

- One of the world's largest inventories of Mercedes-Benz parts
- Global sourcing for items unavailable from dealerships or aftermarket

#### Restoration & Recommissioning

- Concours grade restorations
- Recommissioning of stored vehicles
- Mechanical renewal for like-new feel

Our historic facility is located in Brooklyn, Wisconsin, just south of Madison. Enclosed or open vehicle transport readily arranged. We ship parts Monday through Friday.

Service, Restoration, Parts &  
Appraisals for Mercedes-Benz

PO Box 198 · 115 Market Street  
Brooklyn, WI 53521-0198

608.455.7441 · [www.brooklyn300.com](http://www.brooklyn300.com)

*Do you have club event photos, an event write up, a Journey article or advertisement (business or member for sale/to buy) for the next newsletter?*

*Please send information to Chad Winter, [chad@crs-wi.com](mailto:chad@crs-wi.com), (414) 303-9585 by July 15, 2024 to be considered for the August– September newsletter*

# Mercedes-Benz of Milwaukee North Wisconsin's Only Authorized AMG Dealer



## From our Management Team

**Todd Schwieso**

**Sales Manager**

**(414) 290-4220**

**Ahmad Aref**

**Platform Manager**

**(414) 290-1443**

**Aaron Vrhovnik**

**General Manager**

**(414) 290-1445**

**Dustin Koplien**

**Used Sales Manager**

**(414) 290-1436**

## Mercedes-Benz of Milwaukee North

**1400 W. Silver Spring Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53209**

**Umansky Motor Cars (414) 290-1400**

**[www.mbofmilwaukeeenorth.com](http://www.mbofmilwaukeeenorth.com)**

