

BADGER *Star*

Aug—Sept 2025

mbca.org/section/wisconsin



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA WISCONSIN CHAPTER

President's Message

Happy Summer Everyone!

Whether it's top down or sunroof open, I hope this message finds you enjoying the summer weather and open roads. Whether you're driving the backroads, heading up north, or just around the corner, enjoy the season with fellow enthusiasts. We've got some exciting events planned for the coming months. Longtime member or new to the club, I encourage you to join us and make some great memories.

Event Reviews

Read about our June 8th Car Show and our July 12th Sunset Cruise at Road America elsewhere in this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Our first September event is a return to the Crossover Cantina in Waterford for a D-2-D on September 13th. Then polish up your Benz and display it September 28th at the Oktoberfest & Car Show in Dheinsville Park, Germantown.

All of the details are listed in the event announcements, and check out the entire event calendar for all upcoming Wisconsin Chapter events.

I'm also calling on all members to help keep our Club calendar exciting and engaging. Your ideas drive this club forward: If you've got a favorite route or restaurant, idea for a tech session or social event, let us know and we can make it happen. We're always looking for new ideas and new venues.

Actions of the Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors took the following actions at their July 12th meeting:

Accepted, with deep regret, Bernd Kampe's resignation from our Board of Directors. Bernd has served as Vice President since 2018 and has been a board member since 2016.

Elected Dick Kusch as Vice President. Dick has served as a board member since 2014.

Appointed Gary Bargholz as a Director to fill Bernd Kampe's remaining term. Gary was also elected Treasurer, replacing Frank Lubinski who resigned from the Treasurer's position earlier in the year. Gary joined MBCA in 2007, and you can read his bio elsewhere in this newsletter.

Approved moving our banking relationship to Chase Bank from Landmark Credit Union.

Membership Matters

Congratulations and welcome to those members celebrating milestone anniversaries in August and September, and our newest members joining between May 26 and July 27! All are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please take the time to logon to the MBCA website at www.MBCA.org and make sure your membership profile is up to date. We can't do that for you; all updates must be made by the member.

MBCA National relies almost exclusively on e-mail to notify members that their membership is up for renewal. Therefore, it is vital that you keep your membership profile current to ensure that National has your preferred email address. Don't use email? Don't have internet access? Call the national business office at (719) 633-6427 and ask Natasha to help you update your records.



See you on the road!

Bruce Hamilton

bruce.hamilton@cpa.com

Newsletter Table of Contents

Presidents Message	2	German-American Day	8
Membership Benefits	3	Parade	
Contacts	3	Name Badge Order Form	8
Meet Gary Burgholz	4	D-2-D at Crossover	9
Car Show at the Corners Recap	4	Cantina	
Sunset Cruise at Road America Recap	5	Links of Interest	9
Calander of Events	6	Board Members Wanted/	10
Milestone Anniversaries and New Members	7	Webmaster Wanted	
		Oktoberfest Car Show	11
		Sponsors	12

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

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Webmaster

Volunteer Needed!

Newsletter Editor

Meet Gary Bargholz

Gary lives in Brown Deer, WI, with his wife of 40 plus years, Jeananne. Media (TV) Producer / Director for Marquette University for 37 years. Gary retired January 2018.

They are both avid Amateur Radio (HAM) operators.

Both their ML350, and SL550 are radio equipped.

They have been Mercedes-Benz Club members since 2006.

Gary is also the Treasurer of a local Amateur Radio Club.



Picture taken on the Stanserhorn, in the Swiss Alps near Lucerne!

Gary and Jeananne enjoy going nowhere in the SL, and to Europe on vacation.

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 or 608-754-6066.

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

M-B Shine and Show Recap June 8th 2025

There were a few challenges staging the Shine & Show this year; with The Corners undergoing some construction projects and the weather not promising to be dry and sunny. Still, we did have 24 Mercedes in the show and 10 of them were scheduled for the judging. We lined High Street along side of Market Square and Lord Street in front of the Von Maur store. Our vehicles were a wide range of models and years from 1986 to 2018; plus the dealer models.

Mercedes-Benz Milwaukee North sponsored the show again this year and through the efforts of Spencer Marquardt (and his helpers) they brought 6 vehicles to display and wow the public with five 2025 models: A Blk/Blk GLS580, a Blk/Blk GLC63 Coupe, a Silver/Blk GLC350e Plug-in Hybrid, a White/Blk GLE450e Plug-in Hybrid, a Blk/Blk C300 Sedan, and a striking Blk/Blk 2022 G550. Spencer holds several certifications from M-B and genuinely loves to show and talk cars.



Our cars were judged by our members (and trained judges) Todd Knutson and Arnie Hetzel; based on criteria established by MBCA in two classes: Contemporary Class (19 years or newer) and Classic (20 years or older.)

We also had participants vote for their favorite car and The Corners management, represented by Jordyn Fischer, chose her favorite (for VP Gould.)



Judges Todd K & Arnie H.

Classic Winners (L-R) Jim Falcone with Kelly '86 560SL 1st Place & Soud Al-Mischwit '92 500SL 2nd

If you haven't visited The Corners of the Town of Brookfield (west of Milwaukee,) it's a unique outdoor shopping, dining, living and entertainment center that hosts our car show (and a couple of others.) The Corners features a layout of interior streets that can be closed to vehicular traffic to permit display of our vehicles right in front of the businesses and amidst the pedestrian traffic. One unique aspect of this facility is the vast 600+ undercover parking stalls beneath the streets and featuring multiple stair and elevator access points to the ground level. Security personnel are extremely attentive and cooperative, helping to ensure a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for all.



Contemporary Winners (L-R) Dean Pearson '15 E550 Coupe 1st Place & Nancy Pearson '17 GLS63AMG 2nd Place.

Participant's Choice winner Chad Winter 2010 AMG E63

The CORNERS Mgmt Choice winner Charles Steinkraus 2013 SL550 with Jordyn Fischer

Recap of the Sunset Cruise at Road America Saturday, July 12th



15 cars and 31 enthusiasts gathered at Road America July 12th for a private sunset cruise.

Members began arriving at 4:00 pm and visited and admired each other's cars before driving to the track entrance. Leaving our cars we walked to Victory Lane for some pictures before returning to the Finish Line Tower to enjoy a meal of BBQ pork, chicken and wings with all the trimmings. After dinner we received a drivers' briefing and then headed to our Mercedes for the big moment...going out on Road America's legendary 4-mile road course.

Led by Road America's pace car we did 3 laps, each lap just a bit faster than the previous. Road America staff captured our cruise on video as we crossed the finish line. At the end of our third lap, we parked on the track at the start/finish line for a few more group photos, then got back in our cars and did another lap and a half, exiting at turn 5 just before the climb up fireman's hill.

The weather cooperated with no rain at the track. Yeah!

After the event the group pictures and video were sent to every participant.

Judging by the wide smiles, grins of enthusiasm and post-event comments everyone had an outstanding time. It was an event everyone will remember.

Many thanks to Dick & Nancy Kusch for helping put this event together.

Bruce Hamilton

Ps – if anyone wants to see the video RA took please ask and we'll send it



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 bruce.hamilton@cpa.com
March 21st	Fish Fry, The Duck Inn, Delavan	Chad Winter 414-303-9585 chad@crs-wi.com
May 17th	Gus's Drive In, East Troy	Bernd Kampe bkampe0@gmail.com
June 8th	Car Show at The Corners of Brookfield,	Nancy & Dean Pearson nancypearson431@gmail.com
July 4th	Germantown July 4th Parade	Jan Miller 262-352-8250 jandmiller4@att.net
July 12th	Sunset Cruise @ Road America with meal at the track	Bruce Hamilton 608.754.6066 bruce.hamilton@cpa.com
August 9th	German-American Day – Carl Schurz Park	Bernd Kampe bkampe0@gmail.com
September 13th	D-2-D at the Crossover Cantina Waterford	Bruce Hamilton bruce.hamilton@cpa.com 608-754-6066
September 28th	Oktoberfest & Car Show at Dheinsville Park, Germantown	Jan Miller 262-352-8250 jandmiller4@att.net
October 18th	D-2-D & Color Tour, Mineral Point area	Dick & Nancy Kusch kuschrichard@gmail.com
November TBA	Event at or in conjunction with Uman-sky/MB North Shore	
December 7th	Christmas Party and Annual Meeting	

mbca.org/section/wisconsin

facebook.com/mbcawi

For the most current Events List visit our Website or FacebookPage

Anniversaries and Milestones

August – September Milestone Anniversaries

Member	Years
Jim Pittelkow	50
Allen Toussiant	50
Donald Anderson	30
Bernd & Christine Kampe	30
Joanne Peterson	25
Marilyn Bhend	20
Michael & Nancy Stoehlker	5
Susan Azzarello	5

A correction to the June – July anniversary list. We misspelled Olaf Jentzsch's last name. Olaf celebrated his 5th anniversary in June. We apologize for the error.

New Members May 25th —July 27th

	Join Date
Nicole Von Rabenau	May 29
Michael Schultz	June 8
Daniel Mandli	July 2
Mike Barnett	July 6
Mike Breitfelder	July 14

Congratulations and Welcome to All!

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. Please DO NOT contact the Wisconsin Chapter to update your information. All updates/changes/corrections must be made through the MBCA National office.

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

German-American Day Parade, Saturday, August 9, at Carl Schurz

Our Wisconsin Chapter, MBCA will be participating again this year with our MB cars in the parade at German-American Day at Carl Schurz Park., located on Moose Lake near Okauchee.

Those who plan on participating in the parade should arrive by 11:00a.m. Line-up for the parade will begin at 11:30, and the parade itself starts at 12:00 noon.

As you enter the park's main entrance drive and parking area, you'll notice a grassy area to the left near the park entrance gate. That's where MBCA members, who are participating in the parade, must park.

Those of you who will be driving your car (convertibles preferred) in the parade will receive free admission bands. You must notify me by email or text msg with your name(s) and vehicle model by July 26.

Either the gate attendants or I will have your wristband(s). You cannot enter the park without a wristband. Additional wristbands cost \$7 at this gate.

After the parade, we will return to the same area to park. Stick around to enjoy the festivities and the beautiful park as long as you like until closing at 7:00 pm.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase in the park. You must buy Carl Schurz Memorial Park Currency (CSPMPC) and use these tickets to pay for food & drink. There will be multiple stations around the park for purchasing CSPMPC tickets, which are non-refundable.

Call or text me at 262-492-4441 or email BKampe0@Gmail.com

Map link to Carl Shurz Park

https://maps.app.goo.gl/XebhReVnQNzZ4mEu9?g_st=am



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

From: _____ Return Address: _____

Crossover Cantina D-2-D Saturday September 13th



Join us September 13th for camaraderie and luncheon at the Crossover Cantina & Eatery www.crossovercaneat.com located at 28023 Kramer Road (on Hwy 36, just east of intersection with Hwy 164) in Waterford, WI [Map](#)
Starts at 12:00 Noon We can enjoy optional outdoor dining, weather permitting.

All checks settled individually

We need a headcount to let the restaurant know how many will be attending. Please RSVP to Bruce Hamilton at 608.754.6066 or bruce.hamilton@cpa.com no later than Wednesday September 10th

Links of Interest

Your Handy 1971–89 Mercedes-Benz SL Buyer's Guide - Hagerty Media <https://share.google/yXp6XiGypsZXwl5A2>

Wisconsin Public Roads 2025 Edition Available Free

This revised guide is an excellent resource for discovering these official state Rustic Roads in your area and throughout the state of Wisconsin. Enjoy driving these roads in your MB cars.

For a free copy of the 2025 edition of the Wisconsin Rustic Roads, visit <https://www.travelwisconsin.com/order-guides> or call 1-800-432-8747.



Mercedes-Benz Recalls Nearly 33,500 Older Models Due to Sunroofs That Can Come Loose - Hagerty Media

https://www.hagerty.com/media/news/2024-mercedes-benz-loose-sunroof-recall/?hashed_email=ca913c96672afdff06b09971475dc9211a3238af9caefaa6aeb80aa45000b868&dtm_em=ca913c96672afdff06b09971475dc9211a3238af9caefaa6aeb80aa45000b868

Wanted—Board Members

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

All three (3) positions are for regular three-year board terms beginning in January 2026 and running through December 2028.

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. You do not have to host a meeting by yourself, you can co-host as well. A host or co-host is reimbursed according to the club's Event Hosting Policy.

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've ever considered getting more involved or stepping into a leadership role, now is a great opportunity to help shape the future of our club. Your energy, ideas, and experience can make a real difference.

Wanted—Webmaster No Experience Needed

The Wisconsin Chapter is seeking an individual who have an interest in serving as webmaster for the club.

This is a great opportunity to serve the club by managing and keeping the Chapter website www.mbca.org/section/wisconsin up to date. No coding is required and MBCA National has a training webinar on how to add and edit content. Only a few hours a month are required.

If you are interested in serving as webmaster please contact either:

Secretary Dan Hellenberg at spatlese44@yahoo.com or

Bruce Hamilton at bruce.hamilton@cpa.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, (414) 303-9585 by July 15, 2024 to be considered for the August/September newsletter



OKTOBERFEST CAR SHOW!



Sunday September 28th, 2025

Dheinsville Historical Park

Registration 11:00 - Noon

Judging ends at 3:00

Categories:

*** Best Car**

*** Best Truck**

*** Best Hotrod / Other**

*** Best In Show**

Special Guest Showing:

The Mercedes Benz Club / Wisconsin Chapter

Registration is \$10 Cash

Register at show.

One FREE hotdog/brat and one FREE beer/Soda with every registration.



The car show is optional and runs from noon-3:00 pm. We have requested a roped off area for our MB cars to be displayed separately from other cars as we did last year.

Registration for the car show is \$10, which includes a brat and beer or soda. Call or text me at 262-492-4441 or Jan Miller at 262-352-8250 if you have any questions or plan to join us for this club event and display your MB.

Here is the link to my Google Photo album from last year's event.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/P9aZefcnpLexMJKU9>

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