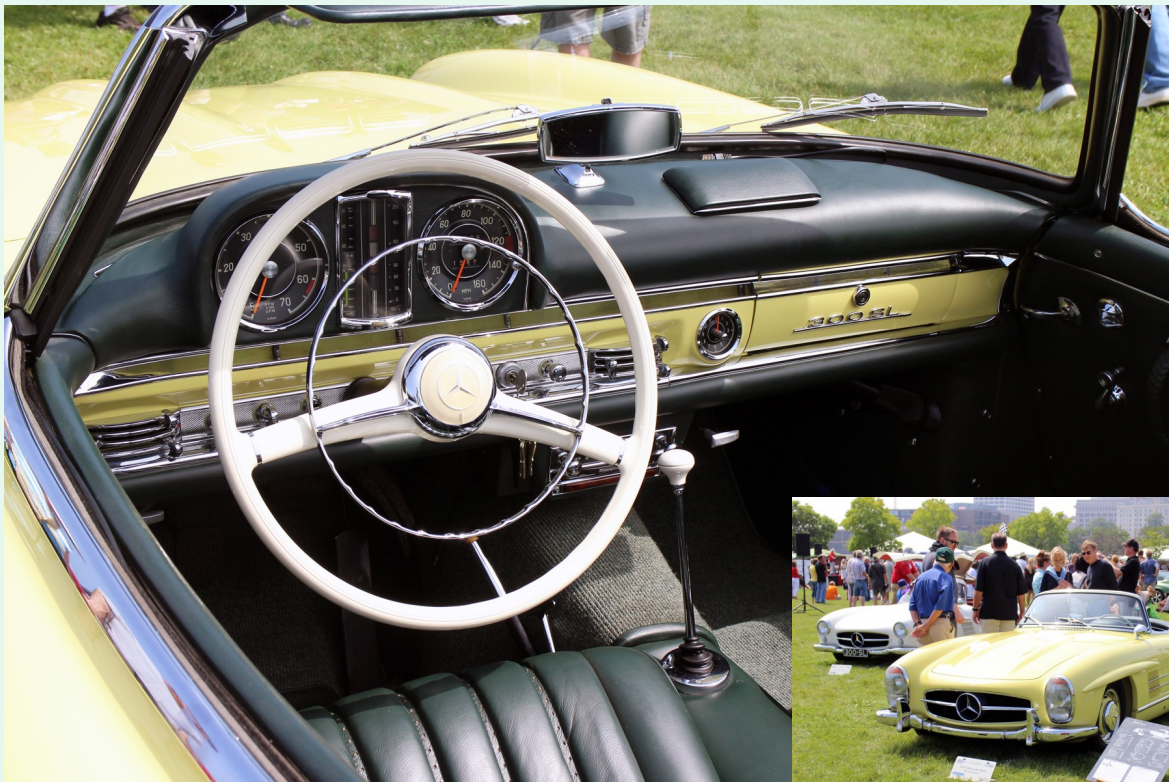


# BADGER *Star*

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Section  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America



[www.mbcawis.org](http://www.mbcawis.org)



## *In this Issue*

- President's Message - Page 3
- Call for Board Members - Page 4
- Starry Nights Review - Page 5
- WI Automotive Museum D-to-D Review - Page 6
- Masterpiece Club Day - Page 7
- USS Cobia Sub Tour D-to-D Review - Page 8
- Fall Color Tour/Annual Meeting - Page 9
- WI Veterans Museum D-to-D - Page 9
- Ducks-In-A-Road Rallye - Page 10
- RENNtech Performance Upgrade - Page 11
- Zimbrick European Tech Session - Page 11
- Chicagoland Section Def Driving/Autocross - Page 12

## *Upcoming Events*

- WI Veterans Museum D-to-D - Aug 8
- Masterpiece Club Day - Aug 22
- Zimbrick European Tech Session - Sept 12
- Fall Color Tour/Annual Meeting - Oct 10
- Chicagoland Defensive Driving - Oct 10
- Ducks-In-A-Road Rallye - Oct 24
- Christmas Party - Dec 6



## 2015 Officers & Board Members

President	<b>Bruce Hamilton</b> 608-754-6066 hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Jim Loseke 920-412-5822 jimloseke@charter.net
Secretary	Dan Hellenberg 414-839-6995 spatlese44@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Frank Lubinski 414-352-2912 frank_lubinski@yahoo.com
Director	Andy Stockhausen 262-782-2286 ajs45@wi.rr.com
Director	Jerry Zajicek 262-549-4656 jerome.zajicek@gmail.com
Director	Richard Kusch 608-288-0614 rkusch@charter.net
Director & Newsletter Editor	Frank Geracie 262-825-7496 fgeracie@wi.rr.com
Webmaster	Jim Loseke 920-412-5822 jimloseke@charter.net
Past President	Nancy Pearson 262-782-7960 npearson@wi.rr.com
Regional Director Midwest Region	John L. Ryan jlryan@kc.surewest.net

### *Board Meetings*

Board meetings are typically held in the Brookfield library on the second Thursday of every month starting at 7:00 pm. We encourage member attendance at these meetings and welcome any assistance that can be provided in the planning of club events. Recommendations for new activities or comments on prior events are always welcome.

### *Advertiser Support*

We appreciate the support of our advertisers and we ask our club members to support the advertisers in this publication. Please let these advertisers know that you are a club member when using their services. However, advertising in this newsletter does not imply approval of the products or services by this newsletter nor the officers or board members of this club.

### *Benefits of Membership*

Your MBCA membership entitles you to:

- Subscription to "The Star", a bimonthly magazine published by Mercedes-Benz Club of America
- \$500 off the best negotiated price of 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 your Mercedes-Benz
- And best of all, participation in the many events provided by your local Mercedes Club of America

### *Front Page*

Displayed on the front page of this newsletter is the interior and exterior of a 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster. This car was displayed at last years Masterpiece Concours d'Elegance. This year Masterpiece Concours d' Elegance will be held on Sunday 23, 2015, the day after Masterpiece Club Day.



## *President's Message*

I write this just after the Section enjoyed another Starry Nights Drive-to-Dine, as well as two additional Drive-to-Dine events in June.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, we held a Drive-to-Dine in Hartford followed by a tour of the Wisconsin Automotive Museum. Then on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Section headed to Manitowoc for a tour of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and the WWII submarine USS Cobia, followed by a late lunch/early dinner at the Courthouse Pub.

Read more about all of the above events elsewhere in this newsletter.

Looking ahead, events are planned for each month August through October, and 2015 winds up with our Christmas Party on Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Look at the upcoming event schedule for details on all upcoming events.

Finally if you have any ideas or suggestions for Drive-to-Dine venues or other events, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any of the other board members. We are always looking for feedback and opinions from our members. Contact information for all the board members is on page 2 of the Newsletter.



Bruce Hamilton

On another topic, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Past-President Andy Stockhausen is hard at work putting together a slate of candidates for our 2015 election to the Board of Directors. If you've never served on the Board, please consider throwing your hat in the ring. Service on the Board is not hard nor time-consuming, and it's a great way to meet Section members and really get more out of your membership. See the article on "Call for Board Members" elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, I'd like to welcome our newest members as of July 17:

Lloyd Davis • Don Duda • Tyler Gold • Ed Krajcir • Jared Thompson • Ray Weihofen

I look forward to meeting all of you at an upcoming event!

And although space constraints prevent me from listing each member individually, I would also like to thank the 26 members who have renewed their membership since June 1.

THANK YOU to everyone for being a member of this Club. We couldn't exist without your interest and participation; it's what makes this organization successful. New member or long-timer, I'd love to hear from you; your comments and suggestions are always welcome. We are always looking to improve your membership experience and give you value for your membership dues.

Looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming Wisconsin Section event,

*Bruce Hamilton*



## *Call for Board Members*

The Wisconsin Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America is looking for members willing to be members of the board. Three 3-year positions will be available for election this Fall, along with one 2-year position.

Board members meet once a month for two hours to plan and direct Section activities and establish policies and procedures for Section 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.

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 & Section objectives.
- Attend Section functions throughout the year.
- Be willing to host at least one event during your three year term. An event can be as simple as hosting a Drive-to-Dine or as elaborate as planning and hosting a rallye.
- Be a proactive and positive representative of MBCA and the Wisconsin Section

Serving on the board of directors is a great way to meet other members and increase your involvement in the Section. The nominating committee will be meeting soon, so if you have an interest in serving on the Board please send a brief bio to Andy Stockhausen, **email: [ajs53151@gmail.com](mailto:ajs53151@gmail.com)** by the end of August. A paragraph that we can publish with your interest in the MBCA-WI section is sufficient.



## **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)**

## *Upcoming Events*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Email</i>
Aug 8	WI Veterans Museum	Nancy Pearson	262-782-7960	<a href="mailto:npearson@wi.rr.com">npearson@wi.rr.com</a>
Aug 22	Masterpiece Club Day	Frank Geracie	262-825-7496	<a href="mailto:fgeracie@wi.rr.com">fgeracie@wi.rr.com</a>
Sept 12	Tech Session - Zimbrick European Madison	Bruce Hamilton	608-754-6066	<a href="mailto:hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net">hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net</a>
Oct 10	Fall Color Tour/Annual Meeting	Jerry Zajicek	262-549-4656	<a href="mailto:jerome.zajicek@gmail.com">jerome.zajicek@gmail.com</a>
Oct 24	Ducks-In-A-Road Rallye	Dan Hellenberg	414-839-6995	<a href="mailto:spatlese44@yahoo.com">spatlese44@yahoo.com</a>
Dec 6	Christmas Party	Bruce Hamilton	608-754-6066	<a href="mailto:hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net">hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net</a>





## *“Starry Nights” & Classic Car Night* *Sharon Lynne Wilson Center - Brookfield*



Beautiful weather, about 100 beautiful classic cars, and beautiful music from the BriTins was the perfect setting for our Drive-to-Dine on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We had about 20 people attend the concert and potluck supper under the stars at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center in Brookfield. Overall, there were about 3000 people in attendance, as the outdoor concerts on Friday nights bring out more and more people each year.

The BriTins played the hits from the Beatles, and were resplendent in their Beatle costumes. Many people sang along to their favorite songs. It may have been “A Hard Days Night” for the BriTins, but it was an easy listening night for our club members as they chatted with other club members while they enjoyed the outdoor supper. Viewing the many classic cars was an added bonus for the evening. Three club members displayed their SLs in the Classic Car event.

Oh, what a night it was!

*JoAnne Peterson*



*The BriTins, a music group from Milwaukee*



*Club members enjoying music and potluck dining*



*Ghassan Majdalani's 2008 SL 55 AMG*



*Melvin Briggs' 1984 SL*



*JoAnne Peterson's 1985 380SL*





## *Wisconsin Automotive Museum* *Drive-to-Dine, June 6*



A small but enthusiastic group of WI Section members headed to Hartford WI. Lunch was at the Mine Shaft restaurant, billed as the biggest restaurant in Wisconsin, and judging from how noisy the place was that may be correct.

After lunch, the group headed over to the Wisconsin Automotive Museum. The Museum focuses on vehicles manufactured in Wisconsin, and may have the largest assembled

group of Kissel automobiles in the U.S. The Kissel was a high caliber custom built automobile that was manufactured in Hartford from 1906 until the 1931 depression put them out of business. Only 200 of the 35,000 vehicles produced are known to exist today.

The Museum also has a large collection of Nash autos which were produced in Kenosha. Hudson Essex vehicles are also highlighted, along with a great collection of Pontiacs, Studebakers, Chevrolets, Fords, a DeLorean, and many more. The Museum's collection is rounded out by a large display of automotive artifacts, and finally a replica of a post WWII Lionel Train diorama used in Macy's New York flagship store at Christmas.

Many thanks to David LeFeber for making the initial arrangements for the event.

*Bruce Hamilton*





## *Milwaukee Masterpiece Club Day - Saturday, Aug 22*

MBCA - Wisconsin Section will be participating in Milwaukee Masterpiece Club Day at Veterans Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. Registration is on-line this year at [milwaukee-masterpiece.com/Saturday-exhibitors/](http://milwaukee-masterpiece.com/Saturday-exhibitors/). By registering for the show as a participant, you will be able to display your Mercedes with other members of the club. Club members can also attend the event without showing their cars by purchasing an admission ticket the day of the event.

Black Forest will be bringing their hospitality van to the show as in years past, and will be offering club members sandwiches, refreshments and shade under their tent. Thanks Black Forest.

Last year was a well attended event for MBCA - Wisconsin club members exhibiting their cars. A number of MBCA Chicagoland members also participated in our beautiful lake front event.

We encourage our members to sign up early. Registration to attend and show your car requires a minimum charitable tax deductible donation of \$25.00. This donation provides the registrant and a guest entry to Club Saturday. Admission without showing your car will be \$15.00 per person.

400 cars are expected for Club Day 2015. Many car clubs will be present, including BMW, Porsche, Jaguar Ferrari and others.

Host for this event is *Frank Geracie*  
262-825-7496/[fgeracie@wi.rr.com](mailto:fgeracie@wi.rr.com)



## *WI Section Christmas Party*

When: Sunday, December 6

Where: The Copper Dock Restaurant  
1474 E. Friess Lake Drive  
Hubertus WI 53033  
(262) 628-3718



Time: 11:30 a.m. Brunch

Cost: \$30.00 per person, includes tax & gratuity

Questions: Bruce Hamilton  
(608) 754-6066  
[hamiltoncpa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hamiltoncpa@sbcglobal.net)

A Christmas Party reservation form will be supplied in the next newsletter and emailed to members.

## World Class Collision Repair



**PRESTIGE  
AUTO WORKS**

**AWARD WINNING CUSTOMER CARE**

[www.pawprestige.com](http://www.pawprestige.com)

**414-466-2111**

**24-Hour Tow: 414-351-5601**



**Glendale**

North Shore Estimating Center inside David Hobbs Honda  
6100 N. Green Bay Rd.

**Milwaukee**

6301 W. Douglas  
(1 mile south of Good Hope between 60th & 64th)





## USS Cobia Submarine Tour Drive-to-Dine, June 20



*On a sunny but cool June Saturday afternoon, nine of our members gathered at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc for a tour which included the USS Cobia submarine, preserved from WWII. The tour guide was knowledgeable, interesting, and interested in his subject. (Full disclosure: he is my grandson.) After the tour, 17 club members met at the nearby Courthouse Pub for an enjoyable dinner.*

*Andy Stockhausen*







## *Fall Color Tour & Annual Meeting* *Saturday, Oct 10*

Starting point will be in West Bend WI at 11:00 am. We will travel up the north Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive through New Fane, New Prospect, Dundee, and all the way to Greenbush. The drive will be approx. 2 hours with a pit stop break in the middle of the route.

A short drive from Greenbush will take us to Kohler to have lunch at the American Club's Horse & Plow restaurant. The Horse & Plow should be adequate for our service, possessing no less than 38 different bottles of micro brewed and specialty beers, 20 draft beers, many wines and drinks available, 7 salads to choose from, appetizers, and over a dozen selections for lunch under \$15 each.



Following the lunch, we will have a short Annual Meeting. After the meeting, members are free to tour the Kohler Museum and Kohler Design Hall or shop at Windlake Mall.

*Registration:* Email Jerry Zajicek at [jerome.zajicek@gmail.com](mailto:jerome.zajicek@gmail.com) (preferred)  
Or call at 262-549-4656



## *Wisconsin Veterans Museum* *Drive-to-Dine, Saturday, Aug 8*

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is dedicated to the citizen-soldiers of Wisconsin. Employing exhibits, displays, and presentations, the museum's main galleries tell the story of Wisconsin men and women who served in America's conflicts from the Civil War to the Persian Gulf War.

**Museum Location:** 30 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 310 (on the west side of the square)  
Madison WI 53703  
(608) 264-7663

**Tour Time:** 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm (if you are not on time, you may tour on your own)

**Tour Cost:** Admission to the museum is free

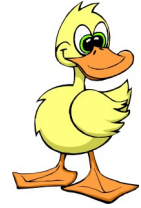
**Dinner Location:** Essen Haus at 4:30 pm (great old world cuisine & German biers)  
514 East Wilson Street (between Blair & Franklin St), Madison

**Event Contact:** Nancy Pearson, 262-782-7960 or [npearson@wi.rr.com](mailto:npearson@wi.rr.com) for head count  
Or sign-up at <http://goo.gl/forms/Oq34Qd3v9i>

**For those arriving early, the Farmers Market is on the square mid-morning to 2:30 PM**



## Ducks-In-A-Road Rallye Saturday, October 24



**Rally Masters: Dan Hellenberg and Francesca Abbate**

We're holding another road rallye. The last one we ran was in 2008. Those who were on that one recall torrential rains before the event. The sun came out before the rallye started and it was really a nice day other than the flooding that put one SL in a near floating condition. Francesca and I promise we're paying more attention to elevation in the planning of this rallye. It's an observation and distance rallye. We'll be driving mostly in Walworth County and will be starting at Carver Roehl County Park. The park is free and has some nice walking paths so come early and have a look around. For the rallye, contestants will be scored on the recorded distance traveled and answers to questions along the way. There will also be a time limit, which, if exceeded, will deduct from your score. You may subtract mileage off if you get lost or take a detour. We'll be dining at the Duck Inn (County A and Hwy 89, Richmond, WI), so if you get too lost, you can come join us at the bar. Trophies will be awarded to the top three scoring teams. Additionally, the Traveling Trophy will be awarded for the first place team if they are from the Wisconsin Section. Tax, tip and dessert are included with dinner.

**Starting Point:** Take I-43 south. Get off on exit 6 "Clinton / Avalon". Go north toward Avalon and take a right on Creek Road. Take a left on Carvers Rock Road. The drivers meeting will be at 12:30 PM with the first cars leaving at 12:45 PM.

### Trophy Eligibility

- Maximum two persons per car
- At least one person must be a MBCA member
- Vehicle must be a Mercedes-Benz

You are participating in this event for your own pleasure and will be fully responsible at all times for your car and passenger(s). You release MBCA – Wisconsin Section from all liabilities for any act or event that may transpire during, or by reason of holding this event.

Driver:

---

Navigator:

---

Address:

---

Phone or email:

---



Make checks payable to  
**MBCA-Wisconsin Section**

Mail check with this form to:  
Dan Hellenberg  
1700 E. Park Pl  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

[spatlese44@yahoo.com](mailto:spatlese44@yahoo.com)  
(414) 839-6995

Item	Price	Qty.	Subtotal	
1/2 Duck a l'orange	\$30			
Queen Cut Prime Rib	\$30			
Salmon	\$30			
Chicken Cordon Blue	\$30			
Rallye Registration	\$15			
	<b>Total</b>			





## *Go Quicker, Go Faster, a RENNtech Upgrade*

Have you ever thought about upgrading the ECU (Engine Control Unit) in your Benz with a performance tuned ECU? Well, I did just that to my '08 CLK 350 when I installed a RENNtech performance upgrade ECU earlier in July. RENNtech is a Florida based tuning company that specializes in European cars, primarily Mercedes.

A performance tuned ECU modifies ignition timing and throttle mapping, and also optimizes the air/fuel ratio. The result is a smoother roll-on of power, quicker throttle response without the factory lag, and increases in both HP and torque that can definitely be felt when you put your foot down.

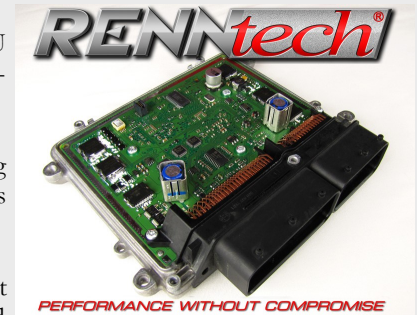
The ECU is located on the top of the engine in my CLK, so total time to remove the ECU and re-install after the upgrade was under an hour. All I had to do was disconnect the battery, remove the airbox and unplug the 2 ECU connectors. The ECU just lifts out.

You have to send the ECU to RENNtech for the upgrade, which is done in one day. Using FedEx overnight both to and from their facility I had the car back on the street just 2 days from when I removed the ECU. Out on Wednesday, driving again on Friday.

What did I gain? RENNtech claims an increase of 22 HP and 20 LB-FT of torque. I don't have access to a dyno so I can't confirm those numbers but the car is definitely quicker and faster. I haven't seen any decrease in fuel economy, and the car is as easy to drive as before the upgrade. The factory speed limiter is also removed, but I haven't been to a track yet to play with that feature!

Why did I pick RENNtech? I had the opportunity to meet the company's founder & president, Hartmut Feyhl, at Star Tech 2013 at the Mercedes-Benz factory in Tuscaloosa AL. Hartmut was originally an AMG employee before AMG became a part of Mercedes, and he was their first U.S. employee before starting his own company. Because of this RENNtech maintains close ties with AMG to this day, and from the research I did prior to the upgrade those ties help make a RENNtech upgrade a drama-free event.

Can't afford that AMG? An ECU upgrade might be a good compromise. It was for me! *Bruce Hamilton*



## *Zimbrick European - Madison Tech Session, Saturday Sept 12*

Come join us at the Wisconsin Section/Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Fall Tech Session at **Zimbrick European**, September 12 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served!

Say, **Do you know AMG?** Not just the symbol or letters? Not just the founders, **Hans Werner Aufrecht** and **Erhard Melcher**. Today, AMG is known worldwide as the Mercedes-Benz in-house tuner! At our Fall Tech Session come learn what AMG really means...past, present and future. Image, technology and of course.....P-E-R-F-O-M-A-N-A-N-C-E!!!!

Speakers will take you through the AMG evolution. What you hear from both the people speaking and the cars will blow you away! Zimbrick European is looking forward to seeing everyone there.



**Host and location:** Zimbrick European, 2300 Rimrock Rd. Madison WI 53713

**Event Contact:** Glenn Beckwith, Phone: 608-258-4013 Email: [gbeckwith@zimbrick.com](mailto:gbeckwith@zimbrick.com)  
Email Glenn with your plans to attend to insure a proper headcount.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Lunch and tech session provided courtesy of Zimbrick European



# DEFENSIVE DRIVING & AUTOCROSS

## CHICAGO LAND SECTION

**REGISTER • WWW.MBCLUB.COM/DDAX**  
**CONTACT • JASON BURTON**  
**JASONBURTON@THEJOHNHANCOCK.COM**  
**312 224 1787**

**OCTOBER 10 2015**

The MRCA (Midwest Region) will be hosting a Defensive Driving and Autocross event at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL on October 10th from 8AM-4PM. The event is open to both MRCA members and non-members, with teen drivers especially encouraged to participate. The knowledge and skills learned will have the potential to save your life. Our incredible National Driving Instructors, Frank and Mary Alice Corza, will be joining us to conduct the event. In the morning there will be a short classroom session covering defensive driving skills, followed with one-on-one instruction using your own car. We will apply the knowledge learned on mini courses practicing Evasive Action, Slalom, Brake & Turn, and ABS Braking. We will break for lunch which can be had onsite at the Autobahn Café. In the afternoon it's time to continue practice of all your new knowledge on the autocross course where you will be able to further build your skills. Certificates will be issued along with prizes awarded for the best autocross times. Use of a Snell certified helmet is recommended though not required. At the end of the day you will have confidence in knowing what your car can do and what you are capable of doing with your car. The cost will be \$40. Please register by September 15th.

# INTERNATIONAL AUTOS WAUKESHA

*The Best or Nothing*

2230 E Moreland Blvd | Waukesha, WI 53186 | M-F 7:30AM-5:30PM | Sat 8AM-1PM

**SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN'S ONLY MERCEDES-BENZ SPRINTER DEALER**

PART OF THE GROUP | [parts@mbofelmbrook.com](mailto:parts@mbofelmbrook.com) | [iaautogroup.com](http://iaautogroup.com)

Mercedes-Benz    
 SPRINTER    
 INFINITI    
 MASERATI

Toll free (888) 691-7435 | Local (262) 821-5000 | Fax (262) 785-4171