

June/July 2015

BADGER *Star*

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America



www.mbca-wi.org

Defensive Driving & Autocross Team



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Upcoming Events

- Auto Museum Drive-N-Dine - June 6
- USS Cobia Drive-N-Dine - June 20
- Starry Nights Drive-N-Dine - July 10
- Masterpiece Club Day - Aug 22
- Tech Session Zimbrick - Sept/Oct
- Walworth Cty Drive-N-Dive - Sept/Oct
- Fall Color Tour - Oct 10
- Christmas Party - Dec 5 or 6



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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.

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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



President's Message

Wisconsin Section events are back in full swing. We enjoyed an excellent program at our Spring Tech Session. Thanks to Mike McKinney and his crew at Black Forest for once again hosting this popular event.

Our Regional Defensive Driving and Autocross on Saturday May 2 was a tremendous success by all accounts, and enjoyed by participants and volunteers alike. I can't say THANK YOU enough to Nancy Pearson for all her hard work over the last year planning, organizing and running the event.

Thanks also to Frank & Mary Alice Cozza, MBCA's nationally acclaimed driving experts who were our instructors, National President Terry Kiwala and Regional Director John Ryan and his wife Donna, who travelled from Chicago and Kansas City respectively, to participate and help our Section out. Finally, I want to also thank all our members who volunteered to help make the day a great success.

Read more about both of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have two Drive-N-Dine events planned for June. On June 6, we head to Hartford for lunch at the Mine Shaft restaurant, followed by a tour of the Wisconsin Automotive Museum. Two weeks later on June 20, we head to Manitowoc for a tour of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum including the WWII submarine USS Cobia, followed by a late lunch/early dinner at the Courthouse Pub. Thank you to David LeFeber and Andy Stockhausen for making the arrangements for these two events.



Bruce Hamilton

Starry Nights is scheduled for Friday July 10, and events are planned for each month, August through October, and 2015 winds up with our Christmas Party in early December. Look at the upcoming event schedule for details on all upcoming events.

German Fest has been dropped from our schedule after receiving revised pricing and minimum attendance requirements from the event's organizers. Discussions are underway for another July event, possibly another Drive-N-Dine or a picnic. Stay tuned!

Beyond our Section events, consider heading to Cincinnati June 13 - 15 for StarTech 2015. This National event is a great way to increase your understanding of the technical aspects of the great cars we all love, and also to meet fellow MBCA members from around the country. Topics this year include car preservation, the MB Classic Center, insurance and many more. I attended StarTech 2013 in Birmingham/Tuscaloosa Alabama, and I can tell you it was a tremendous event which I thoroughly enjoyed. I have no doubt that StarTech 2015 will be the same, and Cincinnati is an easy one day drive, so consider making the trip.

Finally, if you have any ideas or suggestions for Drive-N-Dine venues or other events, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any of the other board members. We are always looking for input and opinions from our members.

Our Section is very interested in how we can support your interest in the Mercedes Benz experience. To that end, our Section has put together a new survey to get your input to help us plan and hold events that meet your needs. When you receive your Survey, please take a few minutes to give us your feedback. We are always looking to improve your membership experience and give you value for your member dues.

Continued on page 4



President's Message *Continued from page 3*



If you haven't done so already, please check out our new, much updated website. De Murr, our local webmaster, and Hauss Cartwright from the MBCA National office have done a tremendous job of updating and improving our website, which now has the look and feel of the National website. Many thanks to De and Hauss for their hard work on this project!

Finally, I'd like to welcome our newest members as of May 16:

Timothy Allen • Thomas Connors • John Simon

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

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. I'd love to hear from you; your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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

Bruce Hamilton



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Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Email</i>
June 6	DnD Wis Auto Museum*	Bruce Hamilton	608-754-6066	hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net
June 20	DnD USS Cobia*	Andy Stockhausen	414-731-3952	ajs53151@gmail.com
July 10	Starry Nights	JoAnne Peterson	262-784-6088	jojo2525@yahoo.com
Aug 22	Masterpiece Club Day	Frank Geracie	262-825-7496	fgeracie@wi.rr.com
Sept/Oct	Tech Session Zimbrick	Bruce Hamilton	608-754-6066	hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net
Sept/Oct	DnD Walworth Cty*	Dan Hellenberg	414-839-6995	spatlese44@yahoo.com
Oct 10	Fall Color Tour	Jerry Zajicek	262-549-4656	jerome.zajicek@gmail.com
Dec 5 or 6	Christmas Party	TBD		

*Drive-N- Dine events



Black Forest's Annual Spring Tech Session

Black Forest graciously opened their facility to Club members with their annual Spring Tech Session. This year was Black Forest's 10th annual Tech Session, and in usual fashion, Black Forest presented club member with a full day of viewing vintage Mercedes automobiles, being entertained by a special guest, John Olson, publisher of the SL Market Letter and author of "The SL Experience" and enjoying a luncheon.

Mr. Olson entertained us with his extensive knowledge on collector car prices discussing how prices vary as a Mercedes Benz ages, what types of cars are most in demand (think 280SE, 600 convertible, Pagoda SL), how Mercedes overshot Cadillac as the standard of excellence in the 1970's, and how currency changes did not affect Mercedes's automobile pricing in the 1980s.

Mr. Olson also covered the topic on how automobile prices for vintage cars have taken a dual path. One path is the newly accepted "Preservation Class" in which the value of an automobile is based on its history, and the fact that it is maintained and not restored. This class values original paint, original wood trim, and original drive motor/drive train. The second path for increasing the value of an automobile is the well known "Refurbishment Class" where the value of a car is increased by returning its body and mechanical components to a "like new" condition. Mr. Olson closed out his presentation by discussing the value of Mercedes replacement parts for vintage cars and how there is "A Mercedes for Every Pocketbook".

After the formal presentation, Mr. Olson provided us with a detailed walk around of his pride and joy, a 1963 300SE Coupe. Mr. Olson has kept the outside of the 1963 car original and most of the mechanicals have been carefully updated to include a modern AMG engine, multi-link air suspension, ABS, SRS, relocated fuel tank for safety, and even an updated electronic driver display.



John Olson discussing vintage automobile values



The day ended by most attendees congregating outside and viewing the many SLs and other models on display in the Black Forest parking lot.

Frank Geracie



Mr. Olson's Classic 1963 300SE



“Starry Nights” Drive-N-Dine & Classic Car Night **Friday, July 10**



Sharon Lynne Wilson Center
19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield

Supper: 5:30 - 6:30
Concert 6:30



The BriTins

Milwaukee's very own BriTins play hits from the Beatles
From “Love Me Do” to “Let It Be”

Join us for a wonderful night of music, dining and viewing classic cars. Bring your classic car for display, no registration or fee required. Bring a Salad or a hearty Hors d'oeuvre to share while listening to music. Also, bring your own lawn chairs and beverages (alcohol is permitted). Dessert, paper plates, napkins, etc. will be provided. Please contact JoAnne Peterson by July 3 (jojo2525@yahoo.com) to register for this fun event!

Hosts: JoAnne Peterson 262.784.6088 & Nancy Pearson 262.782.7960

USS Cobia Submarine Tour Drive-N-Dine **Saturday, June 20**

The MBCA-WI section is planning to tour the USS Cobia submarine docked in Manitowoc, WI harbor. The Cobia is a GATO class sub launched in 1943. Tour of the submarine starts at 1:30 pm with dinner a few blocks away at the Courthouse Pub at 4:30 pm.



Cost of the tour is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6-15. The sub tour is about 45 minutes. There is also a “Nooks & Crannies” tour for an additional \$7 and is open to people 16 and older. It requires climbing ladders in the sub and movement in tight spaces. This tour takes about 2-3 hours.

If you would like to join us for the tour and/or dinner, please contact Andy Stockhausen by June 16 so we have an estimate for each event. If you decide at the last minute to join us, we will welcome you. Andy Stockhausen is the host for the event and can be contacted via email or phone: Email: ajs@wi.rr.com Phone: 262-782-2286 Cell: 414-731-3952



40 Minute Test Drive - 2015 C300 SPORT by Jerry Zajicek

Recently I had the opportunity to test drive the new C300 Sport model. A 40 minute drive was just enough time for me to get some good impressions of the caliber of the new C Class. I'll tell you what's been improved in this new car: EVERYTHING.

* Engine - A 2 Liter, 4 cylinder with direct injection and intercooled turbo, 241 hp, and 279 ft-lbs of torque. This engine is more powerful, has more torque than my 3 Liter V-6, and it feels that way. It moves the car away from a stop quickly with no turbo lag. Always a smooth power delivery, not peaky like many small turbo'd engines.

* Agility Select - has 4 modes for your driving pleasure, Eco, Comfort, Sport, and Sport+. The Agility Select alters the whole performance of the car, and you can tailor it to your own driving style. Agility Select affects the engine response, the transmission shifting, the suspension settings (with the Airmatic suspension), the steering effort, and in some modes, the air conditioner settings, and the eco stop/start functionality. Make the car fit your driving style.

* Interior - the interior looks high class with richer materials, comfortable sport seats, and improved graphics on the instrument panel. The central monitor on the dashboard console gives much information on all systems and settings, as well as the rear camera view, the navigation maps, and even the complete owners manual on-screen. Shifter is moved to the steering column, cup holders moved forward for easier access.

* Handling and Response - the car feels tighter and more controlled than previous models, and the throttle response is excellent (in Sport or Sport+ mode). Ride comfort is good, again depending on the mode selected. Braking is excellent compared to past C class models, powerful yet easily modulated.

* Ergonomics - Excellent I'd say.... I've driven many Euro luxury cars on my job, and none of them have the adjustability or the comfort of this Benz. The steering wheel and seat can be setup with easily accessed controls, and the AC/heat controls are much better up on the top of the console, actuated by larger switches. Improved graphics and the eye level monitor also make information transfer to the driver easier, and quicker. This all allows one to focus more on the driving, less on the internal matters. More comfort and more safety in the long run....



*My Impression - Mercedes has improved every system on this new C class, except 4Matic and the Dynamic Stability Control (already excellent). Functionality, driving dynamics, comfort, and enjoyment have all been pushed to the max by Mercedes, the Engineers moved the goal posts again....

* More Info on the car - go to www.mbusa.com to see all the features, prices and options available.

Thanks to Mark Donohue at International Autos (Mercedes Sales) for setting up this test drive.



Defensive Driving and Autocross

On Saturday May 2, 29 drivers participated in this chapter's Defensive Driving and Autocross event. The event was a MBCA Regional Driving Event and members from other chapters were invited to participate.

The event was a full day of driving activities beginning early in the morning at 7:30 with registration and vehicle inspection. Keith Powers from Black Forest quickly checked each of the driver's cars for safety. Instructors Frank and Mary Alice Cozza then provided a classroom type session on how to improve our driver awareness skills in anticipating and reacting to emergency situations. Examples of emergency situations were discussed with participants discussing their own real life driving encounters.

After the classroom session, each of the drivers were given one-on-one driving instruction by one of the instructors and Terry Kiwala, National President of MBCA. The drivers were run through four mini courses that covered Evasive Action, Slalom, Brake & Turn and ABS Braking. The drivers ran through the circuit three or four times to develop and refine their driving skills.

The Defensive driving portion of the program was followed up at noon by a catered buffet lunch. After lunch, the drivers quickly returned to the next event, the Autocross. The Autocross is technically a low-speed event, though it can be thrilling for the enthusiast who wishes to muster the most of their driving skills and their vehicle's capabilities. The drivers in this event navigate a course of pylons as quickly as possible without striking any of the pylons. The drivers were initially given practice runs with the instructors present in their vehicles. After the practice session, the drivers then performed multiple timed runs on their own.



Instructors Frank & Mary Alice Cozza



The event came to a close with Defensive Driving certificates awarded to all participants and plaques awarded to the drivers with the best times in various classes of cars for the Autocross.

The Wisconsin chapter was honored to have Terry Kiwala, National President of MBCA and John Ryan, Regional Director - Midwest Region of MBCA present for our event. Instructors Frank and Mary Alice Cozza are members of the Ohio Chapter of MBCA and Frank Cozza is Regional Director of the Great Lakes region of MBCA.

Frank Geracie



Dean Pearson in-training



Cars in line for early morning Defensive Driving training



Black Forest's Keith Powers performing a safety inspection



Terry Kiwala

John & Donna Ryan



Zimbrick European of Madison shows a 2015 SL equipped with GoPro cameras





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. 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 the event 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.

Club Day will be followed by Milwaukee Masterpiece Concours d'Elegance on Sunday, Aug 23 where 150 beautiful cars from around the world will be judged for style, design and elegance. These vehicles represent rare and historically significant examples in the evolution of the automotive industry.

Host for this event is Frank Geracie
262-825-7496/fgeracie@wi.rr.com

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