

BADGER Star

www.mbca-wi.org

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2009 Events

Mark Your Calendars

*Fahren Zum Essen
(Drive to Dine) events
are in italic*

Other (non club) Events

- Dec 6th SUN - Christmas Party

2010 Events

Looking Ahead

- Feb 21 Chicago Auto Show Bus Trip
- May 22 Sat—Autocross @ State Fair Park Regional Event

Future issues of this newsletter will be emailed...

Be sure De Murr has your email address. (see bottom of page 2)



Visit the National Club at www.MBCA.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Fahren Zum Essen @ Saxes

FALL TECH SESSION :
Thank you Concours Mercedes-Benz



Annual Meeting

@ Fox n Hounds



Great River Road Tour

A Fantastic Event Enjoyed by ALL!



Fahren Zum Essen (Drive to Dine) Events

Anyone (prospective member or guest) is invited to join our club members around the state at these informal "Drive to Dine" events. Even if you don't attend a lot of other club events you'll find others, just like you, enjoying the opportunity to learn more about each other and our common love for the MB brand & heritage. Join us as we go 'riding to eat'. Bring your spouse, partner, children or friends along, too. Enjoy a low cost lunch (off the menu) and plenty of gemütlichkeit.. Generally, please try to call or email the host/hostess so they have an idea of number of attendees. However, if you decide to go, but it's too late to contact them, come anyway.

There are no other FAHREN ZUM ESSEN events for the remainder of 2009...

Your board could always use suggestions for other places you know of for "drive to dine" events. If there is something else of interest in the area to see or do, so much the better. They would also appreciate volunteers willing to host these simple events. Contact any board member.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR... you won't want to miss this next spring!

Defensive Driving and Autocross *Saturday* **MAY 22nd, 2010**

Wisconsin Section - MBCA Regional Driving Event at State Fair Park, West Allis (Milwaukee), WI
Plan ahead and watch for more details.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Jacob Bachim, Bill Buerschinger, Clint Clingerman, George Crawford, Ryan Endries, Bruce Hamilton, James Hintz, Bob Jarasek, Daniel Levandoski, Linda Nenn, Sylvester, Stys, Renee Zembal, and returning member Dan Esser

We are a friendly group of all ages, interests, and backgrounds. We'd love for you to join us at an event!

Just a reminder that the following memberships are coming up for renewal and hope you will spend another year with us, enjoying your club...

Nov Expirations: Susan Aukamp, Thomas Bues-trin, Jr., Scott Hess, Joanne Peterson, John Staab

Dec Expirations: Jeff Becherer, Richard Diercks-meier, Eugene Dymek, Sue Jonas, Richard Kusch,

Be Sure De Murr has your email address!

2008 -2009 Officers & Board Members:

President	Jerry Zajicek	262-549-4656	jzajicek@wi.rr.com
Vice President	Andy Stockhausen	262-782-2286	ajs45@wi.rr.com
Secretary	Dan Hellenberg	414-839-6995	spatlese44@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Frank Lubinski	414-352-2912	frank_lubinski@yahoo.com
Membership	Ron Sdun	262-251-9287	rsdun@wi.rr.com
Director	James Pittelkow	262-236-0845	pittj@wi.rr.com
Director	Bill Sirny	262-783-1893	nara@wi.rr.com
Director	Pete Samolinski	715-573-1783	peteski@charter.net
Director	Joanne Peterson	262-784-6088	jojo2525@wi.rr.com
Past President	Frank Lubinski	414-352-2912	frank_lubinski@yahoo.com
Web Site	De Murr	262-243-5008	demurr@wi.rr.com
Newsletter	Nancy Pearson	262-782-7960	npearson@wi.rr.com
Submit newsletter items to:	Dean		BadgerStar@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP
Please Renew Promptly

at: www.mbca.org or
check the STAR magazine.

Monthly Board Meeting

All Members Welcome

Thurs, Nov 12th 7-9pm

@ Brookfield Library.

1900 N Calhoun Rd.

Rotary Room

Contact: Jerry Zajicek, Pres
for date and room location for
the December meeting.

President's Message...

This letter (below-left) was sent to our "Tourmeisters" Bernd & Christine Kampe by the Velcios, who came all the way to the Mississippi River from Cleveland, Ohio to join our Great River Road Tour (GRRT). I could not put it into better words than they have. Even though we had rain on several days, and a minor snowstorm as we drove into Redwing, MN, and only one day of total sunshine, we still had 5 days of total enjoyment. Bernd and Christine put together an itinerary that allowed each of us to do the day's activities at our own discretion and speed. And they got our club members discounted rates at each night's lodging. A large part of our enjoyment was eating with other members of the group, trading war stories about the day's activities. And one of the best parts of the trip was the driving - even on rainy days, the scenery along the rolling roads and the bluffs was captivating. Driving my Benz in this environment was so much more enjoyable than taking it to work.....

This all goes to show that Benzes were made for driving - long distance driving. No one on the trip had any problems, other than negotiating the Great River Road into Red Wing, with a hard driving rain hitting us along with falling temps (all the way down to 31 degrees), and finally arriving with streets full of slush and snow (that accumu-

lated to at least 2 inches deep over a few hours.) I had put 4 brand new Continental all season tires on my C class with 4-Matic only a week before the trip, so my situation was uneventful. But the others who arrived later faced more snow and slower going as the temps dropped. Yet, no one said they had any problems getting to Red Wing. Even the 20 yr. old SL's slogged into town safely, albeit at a slower pace. I've always said that the club gives everyone great excuses to have fun in your Benz, and this trip was the epitome of that statement.

We have two annual events coming up in the next three months, the Christmas party and the Chicago Auto show in February. If you are interested in either of these events, please register early. In some years, the auto show bus will fill up very quickly, and late comers will be turned back since the bus will only accommodate 55 people. The Christmas party, which will be held at the Venice Club in Brookfield, has a rigid cutoff date due to the fact that we must give the Venice Club an accurate number of the people attending one week prior so they can order food. The cutoff date is Sunday November 29, so please have your reservations in to JoAnne Peterson by that date.

Jerry Zajicek

Dear Bernd and Christine,

Carol and I want to thank you for the wonderful time we had on the recent MBCA Wisconsin Section's Great River Road Tour. The planning, organization, and execution were wonderful. We were made to feel welcome by the Wisconsin Section members, and we truly enjoyed good times with you.

Traveling along the Upper Mississippi was spectacular. Unique scenery, bright fall colors, bald eagles and other memories will stay with us for a long, long time.

We are aware of how much hard work goes into putting together an event of this magnitude. Bernd and Chris, you did a marvelous job, and your Section should be very proud of you. (Bernd, please share your secret with us about getting the weatherman to provide a four-inch snowfall in Red Wing. Incredible!)

Again, please accept our GRRT - Great Big Thank You.

Best regards,

Don and Carol Velcio

Western Reserve Section

Cleveland, OH

Fahren Zum Essen - Sept. 12th

A baker's dozen met at Saxe's on Hwy 18 in Delafield for lunch off the menu. We pretty much had the restaurant to ourselves. Interestingly, as sometimes



happens with our diverse membership, there were a number of conversations around the table, but seven members either were or are licensed pilots — so there was talk of the EAA Airventure and some interesting flying stories this day.

Long-time members Gordy & Ruth Wolfgram along with Wim & Julie (he's been out of commission with medical issues this past year) are a couple of the notable attendees. It was nice to talk with both couples.

Marilyn & Norman Bhend came over 230 miles for this lunch in her '79 SLC. Ron & Pat Sdun and David Harrington were other members at the table.

Dean's dad, Gordon Pearson (who was a member in the early 1980's) came as a guest. A not seen before member, Dick Kusch of the Madison area helped round out the group in his newly acquired 2006, Dark Green, SLK55.

It was top-down weather and even Nancy's CLK320 Cabriolet got in the act. Great weather, great conversation, great friendships, great cars. Overall, just a great drive to eat!

Hosted by Nancy & Dean Pearson



Don & Carol Velcio from Ohio—Western Reserve Section fit right in with our great (GRRT) group.



2009 MBCA ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Annual Meeting was held at the Fox and Hounds restaurant in Hubertus after a delicious brunch. Since only three board positions were up for re-election, and there were no candidates for the incumbents to run against, the board opted for an oral vote with Dan Hellenberg, the club secretary, recording the results. Jerry Zajicek and Dan Hellenberg were both up for re-election to 3- year terms on the board, and JoAnne Peterson was up for election to fill an open board position which has 1 year left to run. An oral vote was taken for each candidate, and all were elected unanimously. There was no new business to

discuss, and none suggested from the attending members.

The board members will decide at the next board meeting if there are to be any changes to the offices of the club. It was requested that Frank Lubinski, the treasurer, post an annual balance sheet showing the current state of the finances of the club. Jerry Zajicek, President

Name Badges & Membership

For name badges, please visit the On-line Store at www.MBCA.org or call 719-633-6427. Badges are offered in different fastener types and colors (most prefer Gold.) They are approximately \$8.00 for the 2-line badge to list your name & Wisconsin Section.

Membership pins are awarded FREE to all club members beginning with their 10th Anniversary and every 5 years thereafter. If you have a club anniversary that qualifies and would like a pin, please contact Ron Sdun at rsdun@wi.rr.com or call 262-251-9287.

FOR SALE:

DIECAST MODELS

Here's Your Chance to Own a Rare Mercedes Benz
Franklin Mint, die cast precision Models, of Mercedes Benz roadsters from the collection of Gordon Woller. Each is hand-assembled, hand-painted, and in it's own display case. These models are no longer in production!

Mercedes 450 SL Roadster

(new \$183)\$150.00

Call Gen Woller @ 262-253-1555

Advertising Rates:

Ad Size	Number of Issues		
	6x	3x	1x
1/8 Business Card	\$100	\$ 50	\$ 25
1/4 Page	\$150	\$ 75	\$ 40
1/2 Page	\$200	\$100	\$ 50
Full Page	\$300	\$150	\$ 75

WI-Member Classifieds are free for two issues (Plus 90-days on the web site.) For other Section members the cost is \$10 and for Non-members \$20.00. Classified ads are subject to available space. Submit ads to:

BadgerStar@gmail.com

CONCOURS MERCEDES-BENZ

"TECH TIPS" CORNER

Did you know?

Mercedes-Benz offers Roadside Assistance for as long as you're driving a Mercedes-Benz (or even someone else's).

The following are offered as free services:

SIGN & DRIVE

- Jump start of vehicle if your vehicle's battery is dead
- Flat tire assistance by replacing flat tire with your spare
- Out of fuel emergency – up to 2 gallons

The services are offered 24/7 – 365 and all performed by a qualified Mercedes-Benz technician!

Call: 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES (1-800-367-6372)

TRIP ROUTING

If you're planning a trip in your Mercedes-Benz, Mercedes can point the way – Free of charge

You will be provided with:

- A high-lighted route indicating major cities, points of interest, and distances
- A convenient list of toll-free numbers for major airlines, hotels, and rental car agencies
-

At least two weeks before your journey is to begin, call: 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES (1-800-367-6372), and request Trip Routing Assistance.

Please have your vehicle's identification number (VIN) handy when you call.

GOOD INFO TO HAVE FOR YOUR MERCEDES-BENZ!

Watch for future "Tech Tips" articles concerning your Mercedes-Benz.

**Provided by: Daniel Kolasinski, Service Manager
Concours Mercedes-Benz
Glendale, WI 53209**



CHRISTMAS PARTY


Sunday, December 6th, 2009
The Venice Club
 1905 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield, WI
 Cash Bar 4pm, Dinner 5:15pm
 Jackets Recommended


Please RESPOND ASAP
 First five(5) reservations get special prizes...

From Milwaukee:

I-94 west to Moorland Rd. North exit (Brookfield)
 N. on Moorland (cross Bluemound) to Gebhardt Rd..
 West (left) on Gebhardt to Calhoun Rd - Right
 North on Calhoun Rd one block on west side.

Alt. From Capitol Dr. go south on Calhoun Rd to club.

From Madison:

I-94 East to Moorland Rd - North exit (Brookfield)
 Follow instructions on left.

From Hwy 41:

South on Hwy 45. West on I-94. Follow instructions on left.

This event ends before 8pm. However, anyone desiring to stay overnight in the area could look for a hotel near Exit 297 (Bluemound & Barker Rds). From here go east to Calhoun Rd and North to the Venice Club. 10min.

Cut

CHRISTMAS PARTY RESERVATION FORM

DEADLINE: November 29th

Qty ___ 6oz Queen Filet Mignon @ \$35.00ea: _____
w/ Sauteed Mushrooms,

Qty ___ Pan-Roasted Salmon @ \$28.00ea: _____
w/Lemon Butter

Qty ___ Chicken Rachel filled with @ \$25.00ea: _____
Asparagus, provolone cheese

Total Enclosed: _____

Christmas Gifts
 For WI Section Members



All dinners include: Salad, Bread & Butter, Potato, Beverage and Dessert

Make checks payable to MBCA-Wisconsin Section

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Mail Reservations to: JoAnne Peterson
 2525 N. 128th St. Brookfield, WI 53005

Questions? 262-784-6088

***NO RESERVATIONS AFTER
 November 29th - MAKE IT NOW!***

Event Hosts: JoAnne Peterson & Frank Lubinski

Fall Fun Rally by Jerry Zajicek

The Fall Rally was run on Sept. 26th. We started at the Menard's parking lot in Johnson Creek, where 12 cars showed up to meet the challenge. Each car started with a set of directions, a map, a clipboard and calculator, water bottles, and rallymaster's cell phone numbers, but no survival kits, since all contestants were expected to get to the restaurant by nightfall. They wound their way through the



MBCA Wisconsin Fall Fun Rally Sept. 26, 2009

scenic woods of the Southern Kettle Moraine, and the interesting back roads of farmland in Jefferson County, and past many beautiful homes along

Shore drive at Delavan Lake. The rally ended at Margot's German restaurant, and those whose mileage was closest to 76.8 miles got the trophy beer steins, laser engraved. JoAnne Peterson was first place, with 76.8 miles, Dan Hellenberg was second place with 76.7 miles, and Gary Matthies was third place with 76.4 miles.

A new feature was added to this rally where drivers were tasked with taking the shorter of two routes shown on a map. One route was actually 0.125 miles longer, but they would not know for sure unless they reset their odometers and drove each leg for measurement. Some just assumed the southern leg was shorter, and trusted to luck. Two

other sections of the rally caused heartburn to navigators, the first turn out of Menard's parking lot onto Hartwig Blvd., and the turn at Immanuel Lutheran Church, where the name of the church was not visible till you drove past the church and missed the turn..... The next clue asking how many crosses on top of the church should have been a big red flag, as this was the only church within 10 miles with a multitude of crosses on top. Once participants got into the rhythm of the route, the tough challenges were out of the way. But they still had to get the mileage dead on to win.

My Thanks to Marc Wolfram who drove the initial route, did the scoring and awards, and to Heinz Dinkelmann and Bernd Kampe who drove the route to check it all out.

I hope more members will try doing a rally next year. You will find the experience of driving your Mercedes very enjoyable when you're out on a rally concentrating on the route, the clues, and the scenery of the backcountry. You may not win initially because it does take some experience to win, but the best fun is talking to other drivers at Happy Hour to learn. Marilyn and Norman Bhend came all the way down from Athens, WI, to run the route just for fun. I think all the "newbies" enjoyed it, as everyone made the final stop at dinnertime.



A short survey of contestants was done after the rally to get some feedback. Generally comments were good, and showed the diversity of opinions about various aspects of the event.

To the questions about the rally length, and the difficulty of the clues:

generally people felt the length (at 76.8 miles) was OK, and the number of clues and their difficulty was OK. One person said the two clues on the faded sign were hard to read, but the rallymaster felt that those were the ones that made the rally "slightly devious." And some rallies are much more devious than others.....

On the location of the rally itself, and the restaurant location (rally ran from Johnson Creek to Margot's restaurant on the south shore of Lake Delavan):

"Easy to find starting location"....."both were doable from Madison"....."location was fine, we'd be willing to drive further"...."nice scen-

ery on final stretch to restaurant"...."Great ! beautiful drive & scenery ! perfect back country drive between Milw. & Madison ! Great choice !"....driving some of the rural roads was scenic and no traffic, relaxed driving"

How did you feel about the price of the rally, and the restaurant ? (it was \$45/couple):

"Good - reasonable"....."OK"...."Fine"....."Just right for what we got...would be willing to pay more (\$10-15) for better restaurant, but this is ok if it draws more participation"

How did you feel about the restaurant and the food ?

"restaurant was quaint and cute - liked that"....."food was fine, you took into consideration that I needed a gluten free meal, and I appreciate the accommodation"....."Great pick for economy, food & service mediocre to ok".....food was okay, decor was substandard"...."They were not well

equipped for group service...food OK"...."food was good to excellent"

Any other comments, positive or negative

"It was a ton of fun !.....It was truly a great event"..... "Nice winding, scenic roads, we enjoy backcountry roads, we saw parts of Wisconsin we had never seen before..." "needed a halfway stop point".... "It was great to see different people winning".... "This was our fourth rally...we enjoyed it alot"..... "maybe after we run a couple more, we would work on one with an experienced rally master".... "Overall a good rally and a nice afternoon".... "I think it's a good idea to find some area of interest between Madison & Milwaukee. I would recommend trying to do something like this again in the Lake Geneva-Delavan area for scenic and historical areas."



Chicago Auto Show

Sunday, February 21, 2010

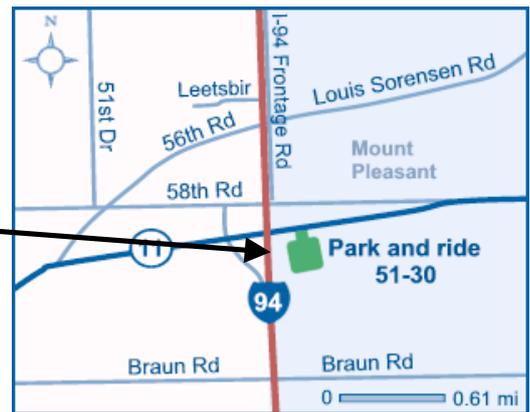
McCormick Place



Boarding the Coach from 9 – 9:30am in Milwaukee
and at
10:00am in Racine.

The bus will run **regardless of weather!**

The Bus leaves Chicago @ 3:45pm. Expected time back in Milwaukee is between 5:30 and 6 pm.



Pickup points

**Milwaukee Park n Ride: I 43 and Hwy 45
(Hales Corners)**

Racine Park n Ride: I 94 and Hwy 11

The Registration deadline is February 8th, 2010. There are only 55 seats on the bus and this trip has sold out for the last 15 years so reserve early! Reservations with accompanying payment will get first consideration. Any open seats after January 15th will be offered to other car clubs.

Mail check and reservation form to: **Bob Turznik, W165N9714 Chippewa Drive, Germantown, WI 53022** Home Phone: (262) 251-2243
Email: turznik@execpc.com Cell phone: (414) 416-3375

Please make checks payable to: **MBCA – Wisconsin Section.**

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MBCA Chicago auto show Reservation Form



Name: _____ City: _____ Date: _____

Number of people attending: _____ Amount included @ \$20 per person: _____

Cell phone number in case of delays: _____ Pickup site (check one): _____ Milwaukee _____ Racine

Email address or phone number for reservation confirmation: _____

MBCA-WI Section

The GREAT RIVER ROAD TOUR (GRRT)

Held on Oct 20-25th, 2009

Our MBCA-WI club had a total of 13 cars and 26 participants in the Great River Road Tour (GRRT), Oct 21-25, along the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides of the Mississippi River. 22 participants met on Oct 21 at Prairie du Chien and enjoyed our late dinner together at an Irish Pub.

Under overcast skies on Thursday we toured the local historical sites of Villa Louise and Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien and headed north on Hwy 35 where some of us saw a large flock of white pelicans and tundra swans to La Crosse where we crossed the Mississippi River onto Hwy 61 into La Crescent, MN. Then northward to Winona where we spent our second night at the Best Western Riverport Inn. Another great evening of sharing our day's adventures and dining together.

Friday saw rain and then snow as we headed further north on Hwy 61 into Red Wing. Along the way, groups toured the Museum of Maritime Arts and the Watkins Museum in Winona, the awesome National Eagle Center in Waubesa and the Lark Toy Company's wooden carousel in Kellogg (not a single horse, but each animal was unique and hand-carved by local craftsmen). Our planned riverboat tour on Lake Pepin was cancelled due to the rain/snow mix, but this didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

Under 4 inches of surprise snowfall, we all arrived at our third overnight at the romantic & historic 1880's St. James Hotel in Red Wing, MN where about 24 of us enjoyed a wonderful fish fry (or other meal). Some of us went to the 5th floor Jimmy's Pub to enjoy some excellent folk and other 50's-70's music with a couple of great local artists playing guitar, drums, and singing. What a great time that was, esp. with the early snowfall outside.

After a fantastic breakfast at the St. James Hotel on Saturday morning and under now clear and sunny skies (our only day of sunshine during the GRRT), we crossed the Mississippi at Red Wing and headed south on Hwy 35 on the WI side of the GRRT. Numerous sight-seeing and colorful fall panoramas unfolded along this stretch. Overviews of Lake Pepin were excellent as well as a city park in the bluffs overlooking the village of Alma and its lock & dam. We stopped for apples, pies & cider near Centerville and then had a unique lunch at the historic 1871 Trempeleau Inn along the river. Afterwards, we headed south thru Onalaska past the world's largest sunfish to our final night's

dinner and lodging at the Days Hotel in La Crosse.

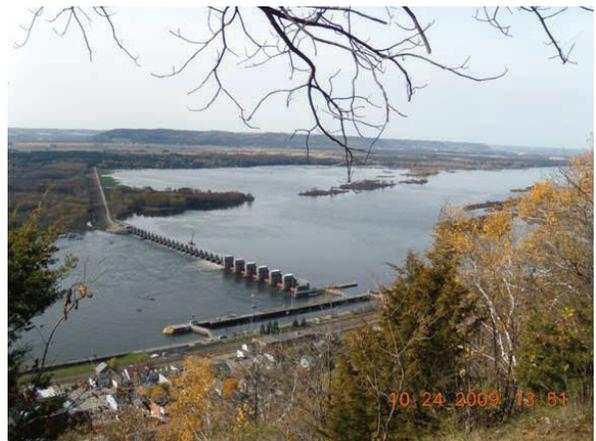
Sunday our fair well gathering was on the La Crosse Queen riverboat for brunch. There were 8 of us from the club and it was very enjoyable--excellent food, drink, and service. Scenery was great also. Do plan to do this Sunday bunch tour if you have the opportunity in the future. This new La Crosse Queen riverboat is excellent and we would highly recommend it.

It was a pleasure planning this trip and especially when we all met for first time in Prairie du Chien and actually started the GRRT with a total of 13 cars (2 joined us later in Red Wing). We had a very interesting group and Chris and I enjoyed getting to know everyone on the trip. Lots of great fun, scenery, history and stories to tell.

Thanks to all of you for being so gracious and friendly. We heard not a single complaint during the whole tour, but lots of thank you. It was a lot of great memories and new friendships for us.

Maybe next year we'll do an abbreviated version the 2d weekend of October, if the Friends of Milwaukee Road Steam Locomotive #261 run their regular fall excursion on the Minnesota side from St. Paul to Winona and LaCrescent, MN and return on both Saturday & Sunday. Wouldn't that be great and unique viewing or even riding on this special steam engine train? Could stay overnight in Winona or Red Wing. www.261.com. Check out the cool video.

Bernd & Christine Kampe, Tour Directors



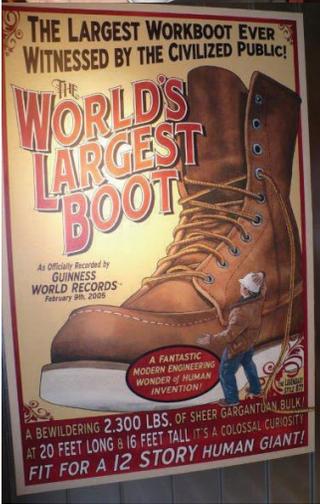
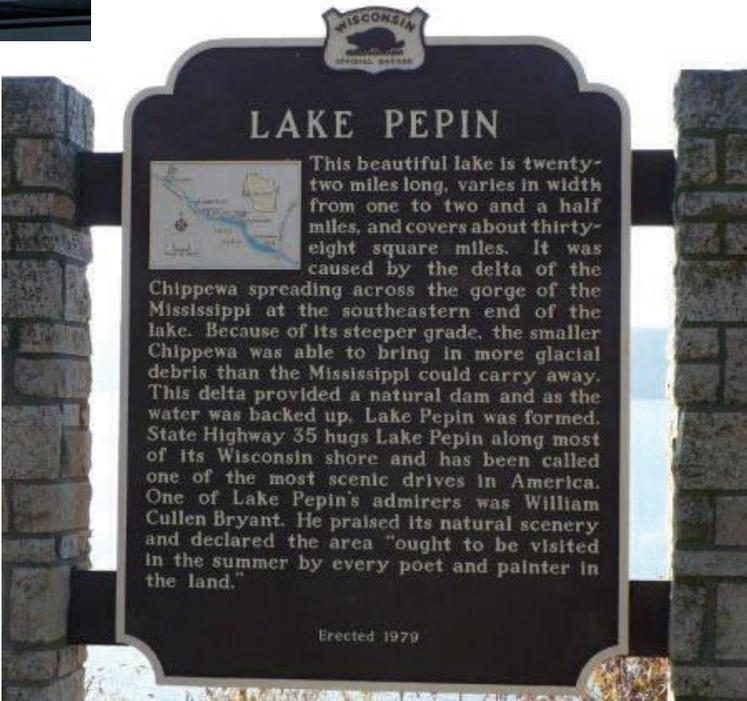


GREAT RIVER ROAD TOUR

Prairie du Chien • Red Wing • La Crosse
October 21-25, 2009



Participants received several “cling-on” decals for their auto windows.
The Tour Directors said they would help avoid tickets from the police; .and they did!



Is your Mercedes ready for Winter?

Take advantage of our Fall offer now until December 20th

- ⊕ Free Fall inspection including a diagnostic scan (a \$110 value)
- ⊕ 15% discount off our already lowest-in-the-industry rates*
- ⊕ A gift from us on your first visit

*15% discount may not be combined with other discounts or offers. Excludes tires and certain services. Visit blackforestllc.com for details.



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