

BADGER Star

www.mbcawi.org



SLS AMG Black Series and CLA on display at Fall Tech Session at Zimbrick European - Madison

Upcoming Events In 2014

- Christmas Party Dec 7
- Chicago Auto Show Feb 9
- Fish Fry Mar 14
- Spring Tech Session April 12
- Road America Aug 10
- Fall Tech Session Sept 20

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President's Message

It was an exciting Fall with the Mercedes Club! A couple of our members participated in the Lake Erie Circle Tour. Nancy and Dean Pearson hosted a cool but scenic Fall rally (not much sun, but lots of color). Just to make it really memorable, I locked my keys in the trunk Sunday morning. The locksmith assured us he hadn't met a car he could not quickly get into. He got into the passenger compartment after about a half hour, but gave up on the trunk. His comment: "This is really a tight car!" The MBCA Midwest Regional Director, John Ryan, called Mercedes for us, but our car is a '99 and did not have remote access. Nancy gave us a ride back to New Berlin after the meeting, and Sue and I drove another car up to Sturgeon Bay with the extra key. We were home by midnight. So it was only appropriate when I sat in the 2014 S class at Zimbrick's Fall Tech Session that a warning came up on the dash that said "don't forget the key".

Bruce Hamilton coordinated a very enjoyable Tech Session with Glenn Beckwith, Mercedes-Benz Sales Manager at Zimbrick. A number of us were taking notes for a few years down the road when we can afford the 2014 model. Jerry Zajicek also took out one of the new CLAs for a ride.

We are now looking forward to the Christmas lunch JoAnne Peterson has arranged for us at the Wisconsin Club. At that time we will introduce the new officers for 2014. Bruce Hamilton will be President; Jim Loseke will be Vice-President; Dan Hellenberg will continue on as Secretary; and Frank Lubinski will continue to be Treasurer. The board decided to ask for volunteers from the club as a whole for the positions of Membership Chairman and Events Coordinator. The membership chair should send out welcoming letters to new members, advise expiring members and prepare for tenure pins. The Events Coordinator should ensure proper support for event hosts.

Bob Turznk has the bus reserved for the Chicago Auto show on February 9th. Now we need to fill it. What a deal! For \$25 you get a roundtrip ride to the show with snacks provided and admission to the show. It would cost you more just to park for 3 hours at the convention center if you drove yourself. Hurry to get your reservations in as the last two years Bob had a waiting list.

Frank Lubinski is planning a fish fry on March 14th. More news on that later.

Continued on page 3...



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Photo: 1967 230S recommissioned at our facility in 2008, featured on the cover of The Star magazine, May-June 2009.



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President's Message ,continued from page 2

The last two years as your president have been exciting, challenging, rewarding, and frustrating. I have been blessed with opportunities and friends with sound advice. Jerry had things pretty revved up by the time my tour started. I am disappointed that I didn't get better organized so that you could know most of the year's schedule by the time the year started. We're trying to get a jump on 2014. Please give Bruce and the other officers your support, assistance, and advice. It is great to get some new people involved, but we need more. That is why we are looking outside the board for two positions. With your help, we will continue to improve in 2014.

I'm already looking forward to Spring! Hope to see you at a club event.

Wanted: Membership Chair(s)

The Wisconsin section is looking for an individual (or a team) that is outgoing to welcome new members and encourage their participation in club events. Other duties include notifying members whose membership is about to expire and encourage them to renew. Finally, the membership chair (or team) should monitor membership duration to get appropriate year pins to the members. Board membership not required!

Wanted: Event Coordinator(s)

The Wisconsin section is looking for an individual (or a team) that will coordinate the activities of event hosts, keep the board informed of planned and potential events, follow up with event hosts to get pictures and articles to the Badger Star newsletter editor in a timely manner. It would help if the Coordinator(s) have some ideas on potential events and potential hosts for the events. Board membership not required!

Andy Stockhausen, President



**Andy Stockhausen and Bruce Hamilton
at Fall Tech Session**

2013 Officers & Board Members

President	Andy Stockhausen 262-782-2286 ajs53151@gmail.com
Vice President/ Past President	Jerry Zajicek 262-549-4656 jerome.zajicek@gmail.com
Secretary	Dan Hellenberg 414-839-6995 spatlese44@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Frank Lubinski 414-352-2912 frank_lubinski@sbcglobal.net
Membership Chair/ Director	Ron Sdun 262-251-9287 rsdun@wi.rr.com
Director	Bruce Hamilton 608-754-6066 hamiltonCPA@sbcglobal.net
Director	James Pittelkow 262-236-0845 pittjim@att.net
Director	Pete Samolinski 715-573-1783 peteski@charter.net
Director	Wim van den Berg 608-345-1800 mygr8star@tds.net
Webmaster	De Murr 262-243-5008 demurr@wi.rr.com
Past President	Nancy Pearson 262-782-7960 npearson@wi.rr.com
Regional Director/ Midwest Region	John L. Ryan jlryan@kc.surewest.net



Christmas Party

4



In 1848, Alexander and Martha Mitchell built a modest brick house between 9th and 10th Street on Grand Avenue (now Wisconsin Ave.). By 1876, Alexander Mitchell controlled the banking and insurance industry in Milwaukee in addition to owning the Milwaukee Railroad and serving as a member of Congress. His fortune was said to have been in excess of \$20 million! It was at this time that architect Edward Townsend Mix was hired to transform Mitchell's home into the French Second Empire mansion it is today. Many rooms were added, including a ballroom, a library and a conservatory. Presidents, heads of state, generals and kings were entertained in this magnificent mansion. In 1894 shortly after the death of Alexander Mitchell, the Mitchell mansion became home to the "Deutscher" or "German" Club. The purpose of this social club was to promote and provide a venue for German-American understanding and fellowship, a reflection of the large German immigration to Milwaukee at the end of the nineteenth century. Today the Wisconsin City Club has retained much of the Mansion's old world craftsmanship and has been completely restored to showcase its unique architecture, splendor and beauty. Our Christmas party will be held in the Deutscher Room, an intimate dining room on the first floor which features a huge copper fireplace, rich wood accents and a quiet country setting. There is free parking at the back of the mansion. Enter the parking lot by turning north off Wisconsin Ave. onto 10th St. (one way street going north).

After our party at the mansion, we will journey to the Grohmann Museum which is home to the world's most comprehensive art collection dedicated to the evolution of human work. The three floor museum opened in 2007 and is located at 1000 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. It is named in honor of Dr. Eckhart Grohmann, an MSOE Regent, Milwaukee businessman and avid art collector who donated the *Man at Work* collection to MSOE in 2001. Highlighting the museum is stained glass, a mosaic atrium floor, a ceiling mural and rooftop mural for the museum which was created by German artist Hans Dieter Tylle. The Grohmann Museum Collection includes over 900 European and American paintings, sculptures and works on paper. A docent will lead us on a tour. Free parking is on the east side of the museum.

Grohmann is the former chairman and president of Milwaukee's Aluminum Casting & Engineering Co., a firm he acquired in 1965 and grew from a small foundry to a company ten times in size. Grohmann also co-founded Central Control Alarm in 1980 and developed it into the leading alarm company.

JoAnne Peterson

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New Members

Ronald Lock, Slinger
 George Odishoo, Cedarburg
 Lars Lewander, Fox Point
 Thomas Telderer, Wauwatosa
 Michael Tiskus, West Allis

Paul Bohn, Twin Lakes
 Michael McGuire, Neenah
 Suzanne Kessler, Milwaukee
 Rick Anderson, River Hills

Expiring Memberships

November - Nathan Franke

December - Michael McKinney, Alan Wolfmeyer, George Hall, Timothy Oleszczuk, Robert Mennen, Thomas Krause, Alan Klawitter, Leon Spheeris, Paul Roth

January - Jerome Zajicek, John Steinwart, Janice Strampe, Richard Reinhardt, Gregory Tipple, James Burow, Dave Anderson, Karen Checki, David Hansen, Philip Richio

February - Ray Laufenberg, Lyle Van der Wyst, Jon Krasselt, David Block, Janet Ehlers, Robert Cramer, Stephen Kness, Patrick Fowler

Fall Tech Session - October

Twenty-four enthusiastic members attended our Fall Tech Session, Saturday, October 19 at Zimbrick European in Madison.

Sales Manager Glenn Beckwith and his staff hosted an outstanding event. The stars of the tech session were the all-new 2014 S-Class, the brand new CLA sedan, and sitting in the showroom for all to see (but no touch!) was a SLS AMG Black Series, one of only 300 built and one of only 100 brought into the United States.

After introductions, members got a chance to get up close and personal with the S-Class and CLA, enjoying the opportunity to sit in, touch, feel and generally explore in depth Mercedes new flagship and the eagerly awaited entry-level CLA. A few lucky members got to drive the CLA and you could tell from the smiles on their faces that Mercedes has another winner on their hands.

Following a box lunch and the first drawing for raffle prizes the afternoon was given to Glenn and his sales staff's presentation on "*Intelligent Drive*." Intelligent Drive represents the integration of all of Mercedes' safety and driver assistance systems that combine to make the 2014 S-Class what The Wall Street Journal termed a "technological tour de force."

The day concluded with demonstration of PARKTRONIC with Active Parking Assist, and members watched while an M-Class parked itself as the salesman in the driver's seat had both hands off the wheel. We couldn't find a volunteer to demonstrate the DISTRONIC PLUS' ability to automatically bring the vehicle to a halt when a pedestrian is in its way!

Many thanks to Zimbrick European, Glenn Beckwith and his entire sales force for an outstanding tech session, hospitality and door prizes!



Mercedes most extreme... SLS AMG Black Series
 622 hp, 468 lb-ft of torque



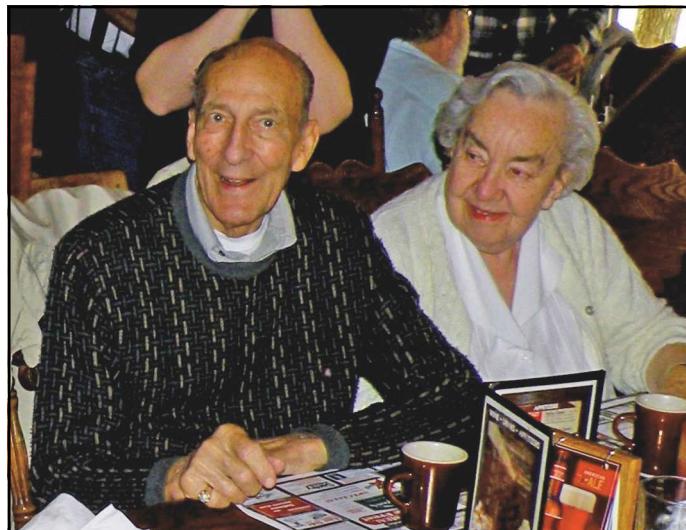
Bruce Hamilton

Gordon Wolfgram - In Memorium

On August 7, 2013 with the passing of Gordon Wolfgram, age 84, the country lost a Navy veteran, and a great citizen. His family lost a loving husband, father and grandfather; and the MBCA-WI section lost a dedicated member and Mercedes enthusiast. Gordy (as he preferred to be called) and wife Ruth were often involved in the many events the club held over the thirty-six years of their participation; having joined in July, 1977.

Gordy drove M-B sedans. He travelled a multistate territory for soft-drink beverage machine manufacturer, Dixie-Narco. When he joined the section, Gordy drove a “German postal yellow” 1975 300D according to son, Paul (another M-B owner.) As I recall, Gordy put several hundred thousand miles on that car and told of one customer that once questioned his wisdom in driving such a car. On later sales visits, that customer became fascinated with the number of miles that Gordy had accumulated and usually made that a starting point of conversations.

Over the years, he also owned a beige 1980 300D, a green '85 300D-T, a gray '89 300SEL, and a unique “Wedgwood Blue” 2002 E430. Ruth eventually gave her iconic Volvo wagon to the family and Gordy got her a 1999 E320 Wagon. The 1989, 1999, and 2002 models were each picked up on European Delivery. In addition, sometime along the way, Gordy purchased a used 1971 silver 280SL which was his fun car. He often was seen in the SL driving in rallies with son Marc navigating. (Marc, was also an active section member and club web designer until his death in an accident a number of years ago.) Some of these cars are still in the extended Wolfgram family.



Gordy & Ruth Wolfgram enjoy a Drive-to-Dine
at the Mineshaft, Hartford

Besides active participation, Gordy served on the board of directors, was President for time, and handled membership duties for the club for a long time. All new members, during that time, received a letter or call of encouragement from Gordy. He encouraged participating members to order nametags and helped them with the process. He also made sure the STAR magazine was being distributed to local dealers and encouraged the dealerships to have membership applications available for their customers. With the new millennium, Gordy convinced the board to offer what he called “Millennium Bucks” to new members giving them a discount on their first event participation with the section.

Gordy had a number of health issues over the past dozen years and he and Ruth came back as soon as they could to enjoy their many friends in the club. He and Ruth participated often and always added their enthusiasm for the marque and the section. We will all miss you; but, are thankful for having had you enrich our lives and our club.

Dean & Nancy Pearson

Door County Weekend & Rallye - Oct 4 - 6

There is a lot of tradition behind this weekend event in Door County. Besides the history of the region, the weekend was the fifth running of this quintennial weekend event started by the Pearson family in 1993 and the fifty-fourth Autumn Leaves road rallye for the Wisconsin Section of the club. Nancy tries to find a suitable weekend with good fall color potential, but less tourist activity so that it's not quite so busy and we can have a better selection for lodging. That's a tall order in this busy tourist area. She handles all the planning, researches the restaurants, publicity and registration, etc.

Some participants arrived early and some stayed later for this weekend, as there is much to do in upper Door County, Wisconsin.

Officially, the event began with a grand Door County Fish Boil at Pelletier's Restaurant in Fish Creek on Friday evening. Adult beverages and diverse conversation ensued while the group gathered during the 30-minute cooking cycle. Whitefish, red-skinned potatoes and boiling onions are combined in the pot for the traditional fare, however, the restaurant offers roast chicken as an alternative for those who chose to participate in the flashy entertainment of the boil-over but not eat fish. Typically, no one goes away hungry, but a second slice of homemade cherry pie might have been on some minds.

Gary Mathies who helped with the weekend activities, had intended the group to move on to a miniature golf competition at Pirates Cove after dinner. Unfortunately, the weather was a bit on the wet side Friday night and the golf was cancelled. It thundered and rained all night and into Saturday morning.

People were on their own Saturday morning and by the conversations later it sounded like no one slept-in. Rally master, Dean, had instructions for participants to meet at Cherry Point Mall for a 12:10pm Driver's Meeting. The meeting was conveniently held in the mall entrance to avoid continued threat of rain. We had some newer section members and many we hadn't seen on a rallye before. Also, joining us after a long drive Friday was our Regional VP, John Ryan and wife, Donna, from Kansas City Section and WI-Section member, Gunter Malek and wife, Pam, from Cuba City. Those two cars had the longest drive. The twelve teams reviewed instructions and got some extra tips on the art of rallying, Wisconsin style. In this case they learned the idea was to follow the route directions for correct mileage and answer questions along the way. There were some unexpected turns and hard-to-read road signs, etc.

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Rallye Award Winners



Dean Pearson signs in Drivers

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Door County Weekend & Rallye - Oct 4 - 6

The route crossed the narrow peninsula twice – first to the Lake Michigan side and then back to the Green Bay side; as it ran generally northeast through Egg Harbor and Fish Creek onward to Sister Bay. The route included numerous scenic vistas and lots of woodland areas. There was some color to be seen, but the generally-overcast skies (that turned to heavy rain and some lightning by late afternoon) held the rallye teams' attention as they struggled to stay on course and find the clues.

Everyone found their way to the end (some with less overall mileage than others) and a great meal at Sister Bay Bowl. It may sound strange to be eating at a bowling alley, but this place is a Door County tradition and one of the choices on our banquet menu was their renowned pan-fried Bay-Perch fish dinner. In addition to our group, the place was packed! Dinner was purely social as results of the rallye would be delivered at the Sunday Brunch.

Storms did subside early Sunday morning so the drive to The Log Den restaurant, south of Egg Harbor, was dry and overcast. The log cabin building and rugged décor, punctuated with carved wooden animals of all kinds set the scene. Door County, Wisconsin is a pristine retreat with scattered beehives of activity. Log Den is a modern facility and the brunch they served seemed to be enjoyed by everyone.

Pictures of the rallye route and answers to the questions were projected on a large screen during the meal. Official results of the rallye were announced as follows: 3rd place was Andy & Sue Stockhausen; 2nd place went to Dan Hellenberg & Francesca Abbate; and winning 1st place was Gary Mathies & Irene Schweitzer. Trophies were hand made by member Wim Vandenberg. Each consisted of a stained wood back and a mounted Mercedes shift lever surrounded by various M-B star logos and engraved plate. Winners also take home a travelling trophy. Road rallies come in a lot of different forms. They can challenge, but they are always FUN! People remember the experiences and talk about them for years. That's a good thing.

Dean & Nancy Pearson

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	
Dec 7	Christmas Party at Wisconsin Club	JoAnne Peterson	262-784-6088
Feb 9	Bus Trip to Chicago Auto Show	Bob Turznik	262-251-2243
Mar 14	Fish Fry at the Machine Shed	Frank Lubinski	414-352-2912
April 12	Spring Tech Session	Mike McKinney	414-228-4899
Aug 10	Road America Race Outing	Bruce Hamilton	608-754-6066
Sept 20	Fall Technical Session	John Bell	414-543-3000

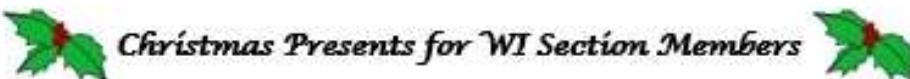
MERCEDES BENZ CLUB

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 7, 2013 11:00 AM

The Wisconsin City Club Deutscher Room 414.271.7510

900 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233



Apple Craisin Chicken Scaloppini

Breast of Chicken scaloppini over rice pilaf with apple craisin relish,
chicken veloute sauce and vegetable medley

Bruschetta Whitefish

Fresh Lake Superior Whitefish baked under a mozzarella tomato herb crust, served with
basil pesto pasta sautéed with artichoke, Arugula and sun-dried tomatoes

**All entrees are served with a tossed garden salad, oven baked rolls,
Creamy Mousse Parfait Dessert, and coffee, tea or milk**

Reservation Form

Make checks payable to **MBCA-Wisconsin Section** and mail reservations by

December 1st to: JoAnne Peterson, 2525 N. 128th St., Brookfield, WI 53005

Questions—Call JoAnne at 262.784.6088 or E-mail at jojo2525@yahoo.com

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Total Enclosed _____

Apple Craisin Chicken Scaloppini (Number) _____ x \$27 = _____

Bruschetta Whitefish (Number) _____ x \$27 = _____

Grohmann Museum Tour—Seniors 65+ (Number) _____ x \$3 = _____

Grohmann Museum Tour Gen. Admission (Number) _____ x \$5 = _____



Lake Erie Circle Tour - Jim and Cathy Loseke

My wife and I took advantage of the opportunity to journey around Lake Erie during the recent National event sponsored by Ron Harshmen and the Western Reserve Section. This event was similar to the previous Great Lake tours (Superior, Michigan). There were twenty seven cars that traveled through Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Ontario, New York and Pennsylvania. The tour group was well represented from many states with the section with the Oklahoma car traveling the farthest distance.

The Wisconsin section was well represented by ourselves and the Zajiceks.

The oldest car was a 1967 280sl from Virginia and the newest was one that had been picked up at the dealer only a couple of weeks prior to the tour.

The tour started in Cleveland, while not a part of the official tour, anyone who is of middle age or older would appreciate the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We heard many songs that we hadn't heard in decades! We traveled west through Toledo and spent a night in Dearborn, Michigan where we toured

the Ford Rouge truck factory (can you say F150 about a million times?) and the Henry Ford museum. Amazing factory tour and museum and highly recommended.

Once we crossed into Ontario after smiling and waving at the friendly border crossing agent (!), we had a really nice drive through some of the more rural areas of Ontario Canada following as close as we could to the shoreline of Lake Erie.

We also needed to remember that 80 on the speed limit signs means 80 kilometers per hour and not 80 miles per hour. We stopped overnight in Chatham Ontario where we had a personal tour of the RM Auction warehouse and restoration facility. Many high dollar cars were in the warehouse, including a 1939 Mercedes 540K and it was explained that the inventory changes all the time based on the auction results. We even observed a couple of Tuckers that were being restored.

After leaving Chatham we stopped overnight in Niagara Falls and had a wonderful, albeit somewhat wet, tour on the Maid of the Mist. Traveling east to Buffalo, we had a stop at the Pierce Arrow Museum, a lunch stop at a winery in Westfield New York and then on to the final stop at Geneva on the Lake for a dinner and send off.

I would highly recommend to anyone that they participate in one of these touring events. We have enjoyed many of these tours including the Route 66 tour in 2006 and we



Cathy and Jim Loseke at RM Auction Museum

are always meeting up with both new and old acquaintances from all parts of the country who share the same enthusiasm for Mercedes Benz automobiles and the club. Look for more information in an upcoming edition of the STAR magazine. Try it, you will like it!



Winery in Westfield NY with Tour Group Cars on Display



Bus Trip to the Chicago Auto Show

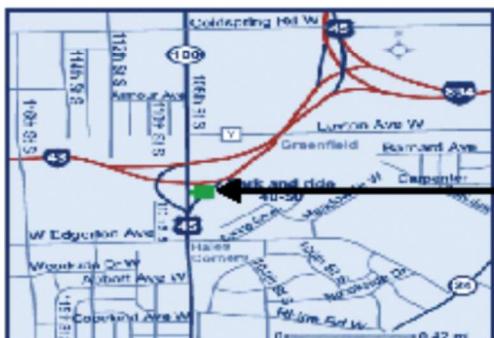
Wisconsin Section

Sunday, February 9, 2014
McCormick Place

The \$25 per-person registration fee includes one admission ticket for the auto show, bus costs, and snacks!

Boarding is from 9:00-9:30am in Milwaukee and at 10:00am in Racine, regardless of the weather.

The bus leaves Chicago @ 3:45pm and is expected back in Milwaukee between 5:30pm and 6:00pm.



Milwaukee (Hales Corners) Park n Ride: I-43 & Hwy 45

Pickup points



Racine Park n Ride: I-94 & Hwy 11

The Registration deadline is January 11th, 2014. There are only 55 seats on the bus and this trip has sold out for the last 18 years, so reserve early! Reservations can only be made with accompanying payment.

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

Please make checks payable to: MBCA - Wisconsin Section.



MBCA Chicago Auto Show Reservation Form



Name: _____ City: _____ Date: _____

Number of people attending: _____ Amount included @ \$25 per person: _____

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

Email address or phone number for reservation confirmation: _____

Lake Erie Circle Tour - Jerry Zajicek

A big advantage of the tour was that “Tourmeister” Ron Harshman of the Western Reserve Section had the tour plan all done – the route was laid out even before we started and the hotel list was all set for the group. All I had to do was dial up each hotel and add our names to the reservation list that existed for the group. No problem, the job was done in under two hours.

Sunday night we got to the hotel in Cleveland, and we met approximately 48 other members from all over the Eastern half of the country at the kick off dinner. The next morning we got onto the Lake Shore drive and headed to Toledo, with stops at the Marblehead lighthouse, and the Mon Ami winery for lunch. We encountered rain most of the afternoon, and the trip to Tony Packo’s Restaurant and back to the hotel was stormy as well. Tuesday the weather got better and sunnier as we drove at 75+ MPH to Detroit, where we got to spend the afternoon at the fantastic Ford Museum. Some of the members in the group took the Ford Rouge Plant tour, and others visited Greenfield Village, next to the museum.



Marblehead Lighthouse near Sandusky, Ohio.
First stop along the scenic shore of Lake Erie.

Wednesday we drove over the bridge to Canada, and it wasn’t long before I found out that my Garmin GPS system was devoid of Canadian Maps. I had along my Apple Ipad mini, which had a GPS program and Google maps in it, but as we got farther and farther from the US border, the message came up that I was now roaming, and continuation of the cellular data

would only cost me \$0.98 per minute. And we had no paper maps along, thinking they would just clutter up the interior with a GPS and a computer on board. And Canadian road signs are far and few between. Not much help at all..... However, McDonalds and Tim Horton’s restaurants provide excellent Wi-Fi free of charge, so coffee stops provided an opportunity to check maps on Google, search out destinations, and find out where the heck we were going..... I would recommend to anyone who travels more than a few miles from home, get a small tablet computer. If you get one with the cellular connection, you can use it as a GPS system in the US, and many hotels and restaurants now have Wi-Fi, and so the usefulness of these devices to travelers is unlimited. A worthwhile investment to say the least.....



American Falls with the
Maid of the Mist sailing by

We eventually found our way to Chatham, Ontario, and drove into RM Auctions just in time for the tour. Their museum was great with roughly 40 cars to see, but the restoration shop tour was even better. RM does world class restorations on all types of vehicles, and we got a very detailed and up close look at all their facilities and cars in process. The tour was highly informative and very interesting – they had two Tuckers and a Gullwing undergoing the restoration process, as well as a dozen other cars.

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Continued from Page 12

Lake Erie Circle Tour - Jerry Zajicek



Museum at RM Auctions displays many restored cars

foot. The Maid of the Mist boat ride was done by the troop the next morning, and the weather was sunny and warm. After that we hiked up to the Casino for an excellent lunch, and then tried our hand at the one armed bandits. Never have I lost money so fast.....we called it quits after \$20, and spent the rest of the day exploring the downtown area.

Saturday the group left Niagara, passed through customs in the US, and rounded the end of Lake Erie as we drove through Buffalo, New York on our way to the winery for the scheduled lunch with the group. We got to Westfield, NY, before most of the other cars since we did not stop for a car museum along the way. The antiques store in town provided entertainment for over an hour as we looked at thousands of unique items.

After a catered lunch at the winery, the group took pictures arranged for the Star Magazine. We, however, took leave of the group and headed for Jamestown, NY, the birthplace of Lucille Ball. Jamestown is located at the south end of Lake Chautauqua, a very scenic resort area. The two museums in town afforded a detailed look into the life of Lucille Ball as a Jamestown resident, and her "I Love Lucy" show. At the end of the Lucy museum was a room which displayed Lucy's Mercedes 280SE. We still had time in the late afternoon to drive to Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio, for the night's stay and the wrap up dinner with the group. A highly enjoyable road trip for us, every day of it.

That evening we had a second group dinner at the Retro Suites hotel in Chatham. An excellent opportunity to get acquainted with other members on the tour as we chatted through the cocktail hour, and then enjoyed an excellent dinner. Some of the members made an impromptu tour of each others rooms after dinner – every room in the hotel had a different theme – ours was "Urban", appearing like a warehouse loft suite.

By the end of the next day, we were in Niagara Falls on the Canadian side. The Falls area was much more built up now, since our first visit here in 1976. The views from the 39th floor of the Hilton were fantastic, and ever changing with the weather and the time of day. The Canadian side of the Falls is beautiful with a park lining the river side, and the whole area begs to be explored on



Waiting for Maid of Mist at Niagara Falls NY

A Taste of the Autobahn, Courtesy of the March of Dimes

The March of Dimes “Drive for Babies” is a wonderful event held each year at Road America in Elkhart Lake. What is it? The “Drive for Babies” is a charity event, whereby the donators (like me) get to drive my car on the track for a fee. Early registration (\$275) plus a Snell approved helmet (\$250 if you have to buy one) will get you into the event after your car passes the technical inspection. Two hundred seventy five dollars may sound like a huge donation to you, but when you’re buying track time at “America’s National Park of Speed”, it’s a cheap price to pay for 4 twenty minute sessions and an half hour of touring time on track at the end of the day.

My mandated passenger (a Porsche Club member and SCCA Instructor) for the first two sessions showed me how to negotiate all of Road America’s 14 turns, and my speed at the end of the long straightaway (dependent on my cornering exit speed from turn 14) steadily increased from 85 MPH on the first full lap, until the end of the 4th session, when I saw 115 MPH come up on my digital speedo, before I had to stand on the brakes to make the 35 MPH turn 1.

It was great fun all day long, and the March of Dimes provided donuts and coffee for breakfast, then a full box lunch, and then a great buffet at a Supper Club in Kiel, where we were entertained by famous race drivers David Hobbs and Brian Redman, after the auction for the charity. I also got to take a ride with my instructor in his 400 HP Porsche GTS, which rocketed down the main straight at a cool 135+ MPH..... Porsches and Corvettes, Ferraris, all rule the track here, but it’s still great fun to drive a sporty Benz at Autobahn speeds, and benefit a great charity at the same time. I will be back next year for more fun. Jerry Zajicek



Instructor's GTS Porsche at Road America

The Milwaukee Masterpiece Car Show

Members of the Wisconsin Section of the Mercedes Benz Club attended the 9th annual event on Saturday, August 24th. Over 50 local & regional car clubs attended The Masterpiece’s “Club Saturday” car show of the week long car related social events. In all we had 22 cars out of the over 350 gathered at the picturesque Lake Michigan shore line. New this year was the parade of automobiles and motorcycles starting at the Harley-Davidson Museum and ending on the show field.

Michael McKinney and his staff of The Black Forest again treated our club members with snacks, sandwiches, & liquid refreshments to keep us cool in the August heat ... can you say German Beer? Way to go, Mike! Thanks for your support and hospitality.

We gave out door prizes to the 1) most original Mercedes, Dr. Jeff Becherer’s 300CE cabriolet; 2) the car with the greatest WOW factor, John Dedrick’s E320 cabriolet; 3) the cleanest daily driver, Frank Lubinski’s 300SEL; and 4) the furthest distance prize driven to the show, Jim & Cathy Loeske with their 450SL.

The Milwaukee Masterpiece is a weekend-long event celebrating the rich history and beauty of automobiles and motorcycles. Exhibitors join in from across the United States, Canada and Europe. Featured marques on display with show quality examples in the judged Sunday Concours d’Elegance were:

The 50th year of the Ferrari Club of America
 The 50th year of the Porsche 911
 The 60th year of the Corvette
 The 110th year of the Harley-Davidson motorcycles

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