

# THE NORTHERN STAR

The official publication of the Twin Cities Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

## News from the 17th Annual German Carfest



Caravan to Road America Yields Big Horsepower and Vintage Memories!

### ***INSIDE: Upcoming Event Info...***

- 🚗 Old Log Theater w/ the Porsche Club
- 🚗 Holiday Party 2011 - December 3rd!



***First Half of 2012 Club  
Event Calendar in this Issue!***

Spring Fling Participants Weather the Storm at Lola's Lake House on Lake Waconia!



MBCA | Twin Cities Section  
Summer / Fall 2011

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[WWW.MBCA-TC.ORG](http://WWW.MBCA-TC.ORG)

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# Prez Release



Jim Walrath

Hello fellow MBCA-TC members,

A lot has been happening in the club and in our personal life. First a brief note about our own happenings.

The 2008 ML320 CDI has been getting a lot of road miles on it between here and St. Louis Park, our daughter and husband bought a house and it has been a scramble helping them get it ready and move in. We turned over 60,000 miles - and still on the original tires! But they do need to be replaced.

The diesel is such a good towing vehicle, it pulls a heavy load with no indication one is attached. Without the trailer we get anywhere between 28.5 and 31+ on the highway, depending on road speed and mix of city driving, most recently - 32.7 going home from a MBCA-TC board meeting.

Now for the club. Since the last newsletter your local club has sponsored the Spring Fling Car Tour, the 17th Annual German CarFest, a trip to Road America, the Scavenger Rally, participated in another car show, and did the Fall Color Tour.

The poker run part of the Spring Fling Car Tour was dismissed due to the weather - we probably all can remember the tornado warnings that Sunday. It was a very enjoyable tour around Lake Minnetonka culminating at Lola's Lake House for a lunch. Thanks to Chris Haas and Liz Maki for putting together a good time.

Then Paul and Chris Bergquist hosted the Annual German CarFest at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Shakopee. The weather was quite a contrast to the Spring Fling; as close to ideal as one can get. There really hadn't been that many great days for

putting the top down but they were down that day!

Dave Tobin hosted a drive to Road America for a special weekend of driving, watching and greeting vintage race enthusiasts at Elkhart Lakes, WI.

If you missed the Scavenger Rally! you should put it on your calendar for 2012. Ken Arneson and Julie Winger really did a great job at a terrific venue. And the Fall Color Tour hosted by John and Maureen Drewitz was a big success all around.

A national event that some members attended was STARtech in Milwaukee. It was hosted by the Wisconsin Section and had our own John Olson as a nationally recognized Mercedes expert presenting a technical seminar and showing his vehicle. Another event that James and Carol Hughes, and others, attended was Gemutlichkeit 2011 in Ohio in May. Their report was of a good time.

As you can see, there are many club events for us to enjoy. And that doesn't include club affiliated events. Check the event calendar at [www.mbca-tc.org](http://www.mbca-tc.org) for what's up. If you have any ideas for an event(s) feel free to bring them up. New ideas are welcome. By the way, you probably get emails via my email address about club events. We try to keep you updated and so far no-one has yelled at me for too many emails, but if they are too much, let me know.

A rewarding way to use your local membership is to become a member of your Board of Directors. You will see the meetings on the calendar. Each year there is room for

new members as we are required to keep new member coming in. If you have an interest let one of the board members know and we will get you on the candidates list.

Once again the local website MBCA-TC.org is a good resource. We try to keep it updated, if you see something that needs work give a holler.

Please feel free to continue to contact me at [jwalrathmbca-tc@charter.net](mailto:jwalrathmbca-tc@charter.net)

We look forward to seeing you at events.

Jim Walrath

## MISSION STATEMENT MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB, TWIN CITIES SECTION:

To further the enjoyment, appearance, utility and preservation of Mercedes-Benz automobiles by providing driving and social events, technical support and educational newsletters.

We will strive to attain the highest standards, act in an open and responsible manner, and provide a broad variety of activities to serve our member's needs.

# Letter From the Editor



Dave Tobin

It was a busy Spring and Summer full of well attended car events this year. As Fall is now upon us and the Holidays not far away, many of us put our Summer fun cars away and consider Winter projects.

The next couple of issues of the Northern Star will be my biggest projects over the next few months. This issue is, admittedly, later than planned, but a busy Summer and job change kept my mind on other things.

The next Northern Star will come out fairly soon, look for the rest of the Summer and Fall event reports in that issue, in mailboxes before the end of the year.

I sold my black Alfa Romeo Spider (advertised in the classifieds of the Spring Northern Star) to a gentleman in Miami, FL through an eBay auction. I now find myself searching for the next thing to fill that third

garage stall (that I don't actually have, but you know what I mean).

I'm looking for something interesting, ideally a coupe of some sort, built before 1975. I suppose I'd even consider the right sedan, there is something about the old W111 / W112 body cars and the later W114/115 cars that intrigues me. If you know of anything like this lurking in a garage somewhere please let me know, I'd be interested in checking it out.

It was great to meet some of the members of the Milwaukee Section MBCA at Road America this Summer. It was fun to talk to them about their Section, the events they have and how they run things. I hope next year we can do it again and have more participation. I suppose it's a bit of a commitment, a weekend in the middle of July, but it's a wonderful event, right in our own backyard. Full report on page 14 of this issue.

See you on the road.

Dave Tobin



*With Brian Redman, ex-Porsche 917, Jaguar XJR-5, etc. etc. driver, on the grid at at Road America, Summer 2011 (lots of sunscreen on my face here, it was a HOT weekend).*

## WANTED

### MERCEDES BENZ CLUB EVENT IDEAS

At the last Mercedes-Benz Club board meeting members of your board of directors were discussing future events and planning next year's event calendar. The usual events were mentioned, some events were laid out, dates picked but what about asking the club MEMBERS for some NEW event ideas?

Do you have an event idea for the club? Is there a particular restaurant that you know of at the end of a long scenic drive that could be worked into a Sunday afternoon club event drive? How about ideas for a tech event at one of the dealerships? What would you be interested in learning about at a tech event?

If you have any suggestions or ideas, no matter how big or small... we'd like to hear from you! What did you like about the past couple of events you attended? What would you like to see more of?

We have had very good participation at events this year... 30+ members at the Feldmann Imports Tech event last February, 30+ members at the Vino in the Valley Scavenger Rally, 40+ Members at the Fall Color Tour... let's keep the string going with some fresh event ideas. Have an idea? Please Contact....

Club Events Coordinator: Paul Bergquist  
email: pbassocinc@aol.com

Club President: Jim Walrath  
email: jwalrathmbca-tc@charter.net



Old Log Theater



# The Mercedes-Benz Club of America Twin Cities Section

and the

## Nord Stern Region of the Porsche Club of America

invite you to their annual lunch and matinee outing to the Old Log Theater. This year we will be enjoying a performance of

### *“Everybody Loves Opal”*

**Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Social Hour & Cash Bar starts at 11:30am**

**Lunch Seating at 12:00 noon**

**Lunch @ 12:30pm, Performance @ 2:00pm**

The outing consists of good cars, food, friends, and laughter (not necessarily in that order). We will meet at the Old Log Theater for lunch and then stay to watch the matinee.

The lobby and bar at the Old Log Theater open at 11:30am. Luncheon seating begins at 12:00pm, luncheon is served at 12:30pm. The show begins promptly at 2:00pm.

You have a choice of one of five main course entrées for lunch: Roast Crown of Pork, Crispy Southern Style Country Baked Chicken, Beef Stroganoff, Walleye Pike Almandine or Grilled Vegetable Stuffed Ravioli (vegetarian). All meals include: Mixed Green Salad & House Dressing, Potatoes O’Brian, Vegetables, French Bread & Butter, Dessert: Apple Crisp, Beverage: Coffee, Tea or Milk.

Please make your meal selection on the reservation form below. Each reservation is \$37.50 per person which includes lunch and your ticket to the show.

Please send reservation form (below) and payment to your events hosts (MBCA club members) John Elliot & Beth Kraus, 5904 Lee Valley Road, Edina, MN 55439. Their phone number is (952) 829-5142 if you have questions. **Make checks payable to: “MBCA-Twin City Section”**

**\*All reservations and payment must be received by November 11, 2011\***

#### *A Comedy by John Patrick*

This classic comedy is about the infectiously cheerful optimist Opal Kronkie and a trio of down and out con artists. Opal, a middle-aged recluse, lives in a tumble-down mansion at the edge of the municipal dump. The general disarray of her establishment is aggravated by the fact that Opal collects things--anything that can be toted home in her little red wagon. Into her rather strange world come the con artists Gloria, Bradford and Solomon. The crooks decide that what Opal needs is plenty of insurance, a rapid demise and three beneficiaries (themselves). The unsavory trio concoct several elaborate schemes to “do in” Opal, only to be thwarted by her oddball antics.

If you need to run directions use:

Old Log Theater  
5185 Meadville Street  
Greenwood, MN 55331  
Box office Ph: (952) 474-5951

Yes! I / We would like to attend the Mercedes-Benz Club / Porsche Club Old Log Theater outing! Cost is \$37.50 per person. Please list name of each attendee, Check one main entrée selection per person:

Attendee#1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Crown of Pork \_\_\_\_\_

Crispy Southern Style Country Baked Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Beef Stroganoff \_\_\_\_\_

Walleye Pike Almandine \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Vegetable Stuffed Ravioli \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee#2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Crown Pork \_\_\_\_\_

Crispy Southern Style Baked Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Beef Stroganoff \_\_\_\_\_

Walleye Pike Almandine \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Vegetable Stuffed Ravioli \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this Reservation form with payment to: John Elliot & Beth Kraus, 5904 Lee Valley Road, Edina, MN 55439  
**Make checks payable to: “MBCA-Twin City Section”**

# EVENT REPORT:

# Spring Fling Tour 2011



L to R: Ursula and Rudy Lamprecht, Dave Bortner and Michelle DeMist, Christopher Haas and Liz Maki, Dave Tobin, Jim and Mary Walrath.

The first Mercedes-Benz Club driving tour of the year was held on Sunday, May 22nd. The official beginning to the season's driving events was held on a fairly cool and very rainy day, in fact, while we were all eating lunch at Lola's Lake House on Lake Waconia, a powerful tornado was ripping through Minneapolis causing considerable damage.

Our tour through Wayzata and Minnetonka was leisurely, but with the driving rain it wasn't all that relaxing. Windshield

wipers were on full blast and convertible tops remained up!

This was the first event for my new C300, I had taken delivery of the car just 4 days before this event. I must say, rain sensing windshield wipers are a wonderful invention... they know exactly when to wipe, that annoying tap of the wiper control arm between ill timed intermittent wipes when the rain is falling either too hard or not hard enough is a thing of the past!

Thanks to Christopher Haas, Liz Maki and Dave Bortner for organizing this event, planning the route and taking the initiative to come up with something new early in the season to get us out of the house with our cars! - Ed. 🚗



Clockwise from front left: Rudy and Ursula Lamprecht, Dave Bortner, Liz Maki, Christopher Haas, Dave Tobin, Mary and Jim Walrath, Michelle DeMist, Joyce and Jerry Grenz (Joyce and Jerry had left before the other group photo was taken).



This photo pretty well sums up the drive.



# Holiday Party 2011

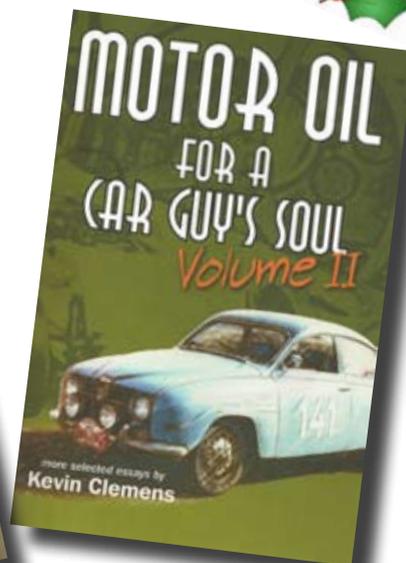
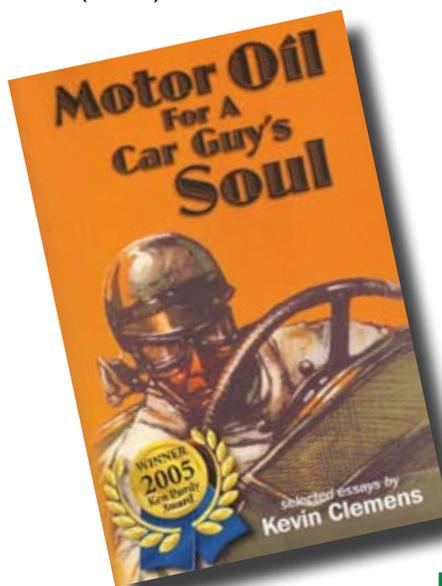


## Come enjoy the MBCA Twin Cities Section's 2011 Holiday Party at Olympic Hills Country Club in Eden Prairie!

Olympic Hills Country Club is Located at:  
10625 Mount Curve Rd.  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347  
Ph: (952) 941-6262



Saturday, December 3, 2011  
5:00 - 6:00 - Social Hour (cash bar)  
6:00 - 7:00 - Dinner Buffet  
7:00 - 9:00 - Guest Speaker and Social Time



Enjoy a **Dinner Buffet** Consisting of:

Strawberry Romaine Salad, Pea Salad, Breaded Pork Chops, Baked Chicken, True Cod w/cracker crust and sauce momay, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Chef's choice vegetable, coffee, tea, milk.

Dessert: Hot fudge sundae.

With guest speaker

**KEVIN CLEMENS!**

This year's guest speaker is local Minnesota resident, Kevin Clemens, award winning automotive journalist, author of many automotive essays and several books. Kevin has written for Automobile Magazine, Reader's Digest and is Editor-at-large of European Car Magazine. Hear about his many automotive adventures including his around the world journey in a 1959 Mercedes-Benz!



**Cut out the form below, fill it out and send it in to reserve your space!**

**\*All reservations and payments must be received by November 30, 2011\***

Yes! I / We would like to attend the Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Twin Cities Section Holiday Party 2011 at Olympic Hills Country Club in Eden Prairie on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Cost is \$50 per couple or \$30 per individual (includes dinner, tax and tip). Please list name of each attendee:

Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ Amount Enclosed (\$30 per individual or \$50 per couple): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this Reservation form with payment to:

Dean & Marguerite Rosenow, 8301 Oakmere Road, Bloomington, MN 55438 - Questions? Call them at (952) 944-2244 or email: deanmarguerite@aol.com - **Make checks payable to: "MBCA-Twin City Section"**



# **NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS :**

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September 23, 2011



Hello MBCA-TC Members,

Your board of directors met Wednesday evening, September 23rd. I thought a little summary would be appropriate.

I would like to introduce you to Reggie Matter as our Internet Marketing Manager. He has graciously volunteered his expertise to our club. We should have a greater presence and exposure so that we will all have the latest club news earlier. Thank you Reggie!

## **Past Events:**

*Scavenger Rally!* - Aug. 7 was well attended, very nicely done and well received. Thank you to Ken Arneson and Julie Winger.

*New London to New Brighton* - Aug. 13 was again a success, for the 25th time. Thank you to John Elliot for being the club liaison.

## **Club Sponsored Future Events:**

*Fall Color Tour & Lunch* - Sarah's in Red Wing (same place - new name). Sunday, October 9. Look for an informational flyer coming to you soon. We will also conduct our brief Annual Meeting at Sarah's where you will vote on the board of directors slate and be introduced to your officers (see below). This promises to be a good color year!

*Annual Holiday Party* - Saturday, Dec. 3. We are back at Olympic Hills Country Club this year. There will be a little twist with the cost that you will see in the flyer announcement. We are also planning for a speaker to make a short presentation. We have ideas but if you have someone interesting, or an interesting topic to offer, please do so, nothing is firmed up yet.

There are other non-MBCA-TC sponsored events that we are involved with, such as the Tour of Lake Huron and The Old Log Theater, that are on the club calendar (see Club Communication below).

## **Newsletter:**

The next newsletter is planned for the end of the month as the summer issue. There will be another brief newsletter to follow shortly after. Dave offers his apologies but with a computer failure, job change and summer distractions he has not been able to keep up. He is working on it.

**Club Communication:** You are encouraged to follow club announcements, news, event articles and such at the National website [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) and the Twin Cities Section at [www.mbca-tc.org](http://www.mbca-tc.org)

On our local site is also an Event Calendar listing more than the club sponsored events that may have a strong interest to you. Plus there are the regular recurring events like the Lion's Tap 1st Wednesday and The Croissant Club on the 3rd Friday. All are open to all members.

**Board of Directors and Officers Nominees:** The slate of nominees for that we will consider at the annual meeting are as follows:

*Director Nominees:* Dave Tobin, Warren Rauch and Reggie Matter.

*Officer Nominees:* President: Jim Walrath, Vice President: Chris Haas, Secretary: Scott Hegstrand, Treasurer: Warren Rauch.

If there are any other members who would like to serve on the board of directors or as an officer please feel free to nominate them, or express your own interest, and they will be added to the slate.

Lastly: If you have interesting ideas for events or activities, or want to participate in the club more, please let one of the board members know (see list and contact information in the back of this newsletter).

Always feel welcome to attend one of the events and meet your fellow members, and to express your ideas.

Thank you for your membership!

Jim Walrath, President and Your Board of Directors

## TIRE CODES

By request, we will be looking at tire codes this session. Presumably, you would be interested in getting new tires. Your first and best source of information is the sticker on the door frame or fuel filler that gives you the size and pressures. Next would be the driver's manual. When you actually buy tires, the sales person at a reputable car or tire dealer can help tailor the tires to your style of driving, with regards to tread types.

Search Wiki for tire codes, and you will get nine pages of information. Cutting it down some, first there will be a "P" for passenger car, 3 digits for the width in mm, 2 or 3 digits giving the aspect ratio (sidewall height to width as a percentage), R indicating radial construction, 2 digit rim diameter in inches, 2or 3 digit number load rating, and finally 1 or 2 digit / letter for speed rating.

Expanding a bit now, the load rating is also usually given in pounds elsewhere on the tire, next to the maximum cold pressure. Usually, a nice tire choice would not be loaded much over about 1/2 of the weight rating. Wiki gives a chart of the speed ratings, starting with A1 at 3mph, A2 zooms

up to 6mph, and etc. until finally getting up to S at 112, T at 118, U at 124, H at 130, V at 149 and so forth up to (Y) at over 186. Only H is out of order for some unstated reason. In many countries, tires ratings by law must exceed the top speed of the vehicle to which they are fitted; not a bad idea. Of course, in this country that is not the law, but if someone steals your car and blows a tire by exceeding its rating and hits someone, they will sue you for the unseen hazard you created.

There is a rating for wet traction, and one for temperature, where A is best, B is not as good, etc. There is a tread wear index number, which is only relative to other tires. The higher the number the longer it lasts. Usually there is a trade-off with other characteristics between these and also price.

I haven't put much stock in date codes, as I know people successfully running on 50 year old tires, but in a very hot climate, it could make a difference having fresher tires. The code is a 4 digit number somewhere after DOT. It is read as the week and year of manufacture, such as 1509 would be the 15th week of 2009.



By John Elliott

When I was first driving, tires were a precious commodity, and we had to get the most out of them, so it was not unusual to drive on tires with the cords showing. Did any blow? Of course, they all did. We were expecting it, and drove mindful of the condition of the tires. We relied on the natural aural warning system built into every tire (pow!, wop, wop, wop) to alert us it was time to change the tires; no fancy dash light needed. Doing this today would wreak untold havoc. We might text "kill" instead of "kiss", drop our croissant into our latte, and splash all over the Wall Street. The sudden need to shift our attention to driving might be too much for us, and vehicle control would be lost.

Superb Motoring,  
John Elliott



1958 190SL



1969 300SEL 6.3



1977 450SEL 6.9

## EVENT REPORT:

# 17th Annual German Car Fest



This year marked the 17th Annual German Car Fest. Held again at Veteran's Memorial Park in Shakopee. Saturday June 11th couldn't have been any more beautiful, the weather was perfect.

The turnout this year was great, in terms of total number of cars as well as the wide variety of different German auto makes and models that showed up. There were more than 130 cars in attendance, 43 of which were Mercedes-Benz vehicles, the breakdown by make is at right >

The German Car Fest is our club's biggest event of the year, it's also the most important in terms of club visibility in the community, it was great to have such a good turn out, thanks for your participation. If you couldn't make it this year, mark your calendar for next year.

The club is considering some changes for the 2012 German Carfest, a change of venue may be in order for the next event. Wherever it ends up and in whatever form, the tentative date is June 9, 2012. 🚗



4 - Audi



1 - Ford Capri, 1 - Borgward



43 - BMW



31 - Porsche



11 - Volkswagen



1 - Lloyd



Berg, Garelick and Flaten playing 'Whose engine is shinniest?'



A line up of just a few of the many BMW 2002s in attendance.



A young man inherited this vintage W113 SL from his grandfather, this was his first German Car Fest.



John Fair with his 2001 SLK320. He won 'Best of Street' at the Gemutlichkeit concours d'Elegance event in Ohio this year, as well as high marks in the driving events.



Club member Warren Rauch set up the sound system for the Bavarian Muzikmeisters, his 6.9 stands guard.



Matt Jurcich talks about his W140 S class with John Fair.



The owners of this 2011 SLS AMG joined the MBCA Twin Cities section earlier this year after getting their new supercar.



*A beautiful day for beautiful cars, the weather couldn't have been better!*



*High quality cars this year, W111 Coupe and Ponton sedan.*



*Classic 6 series BMW.*



*Dave Steingas' elegant 1951 220 Cabriolet.*



*Kurt Drews' 450SLC.*



Paul and Chris Bergquist have been the point team for this event since its inception, 17 years! They have expressed interest in finding a new point person, or persons, for this event next year and subsequent years. To be fair to them and their time, it's time we start looking for someone to whom the organizational German Car Fest torch can be passed.

If you're interested in helping to organize the 2012 German Car Fest please contact Paul Bergquist or President, Jim Walrath.



***Thanks Paul and Chris, for another great German Car Fest!***

# WINTER OPENINGS ARE AVAILABLE AT SEARS IMPORTS BODY SHOP!

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Mercedes-Benz

At Sears Imported Autos Body Shop we have Winter openings for complete or cosmetic restorations on all makes and models of cars, trucks and bikes.

We have a certified Mercedes-Benz team ready to restore your ugly baby back to the car you remember and love and dream of driving. We restore motorcycles too. Simple repaint to complete restoration services, we do it all.

We make dreams a reality with quality repairs and low Winter rates.

There is no project too big or too small for us car guys, we love what we do to make your dreams come true.

Please fee free to contact me if you'd like to discuss your project.

Sincerely,

"Big Mike" Wells

Body Shop Manager - Sears Imported Autos

Mobile: (612) 388-5246

Office: (952) 512-6566

email: [mike.wells@searsimports.com](mailto:mike.wells@searsimports.com)



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# Caravan to ROAD AMERICA July 15 - 17 2011

The Kohler International Challenge with Brian Redman Vintage Race Weekend at Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI

By Dave Tobin

The Caravan to Road America came together on the rather dark grey morning of Friday 15th of July. The skies were dark and threatening, rain seemed eminent.

While I was planning the event and making calls to the folks from the Chicago and Milwaukee Sections of the Mercedes-Benz Club and talking to different interested parties from the Twin Cities Section I had visions of this grand caravan of 20 or 30 Mercedes vehicles driving together, headlights on, nose to tail, the seas of traffic parting before us as we cruised down the highway in all of our Teutonic glory. Well, that wasn't how it turned out.

While there were about 8 people who signed up to drive down in the Caravan, just two actually showed up at the rendezvous point, a Starbucks in Hudson, WI. They were, of course, in one car... the father son team of Chris and Alex Georgacas in young Alex's CL55 AMG. I had never met these guys, but we chatted briefly, got some coffee and went to climb into our cars.

I leaned into their car to figure out who was going to lead and ask about general driving styles, there's nothing worse than trying to caravan without knowing how the other guy likes to go. I noticed all sorts of electronic stuff in Alex's CL55. A nav unit, a radio of some sort, there was an extra antenna or two on the back deck of the car, maybe a police scanner... he seemed to be prepared for something.

I climbed into my car and it was just then when the rain started, by the time we were merging onto the highway, the rain was



*Some vintage, some not so vintage. The highest performance group of the weekend, including modern Formula 1 and Indy cars as well as sports car proto-types such as the silver Audi R8 here, 4th car back in left column.*

coming down in sheets. The driving rain continued for only about 45 minutes, once we were a ways into Wisconsin, the sky cleared up and it was a beautiful day, you would never have guessed that just an hour north there was a thunderstorm.

By about noon we arrived in Mauston, our turn off of I-94 to head towards Elkhart Lake, we stopped for lunch there. It was just the three of us so we were able to get pretty well acquainted over lunch, I must say, you meet the most interesting people through the Mercedes-Benz Club. Soon, it was back to the road and the great drive across the back roads of Wisconsin for the last two and a half hours of our trip the Elkhart Lake.

As we rolled into town in the late afternoon we went our separate ways, I went straight to the track to check in with my SCCA friends and get my course worker credentials, Chris and Alex went to their hotel.

Friday evening of this vintage race weekend is always a fun time. The racing cars parade the several miles from the track down highway 61 (which the police close, they escort the cars) into downtown Elkhart Lake where they park for a Road and Track sponsored race car Concours d'Elegance.

They park right around what was the original Start / Finish line for the earliest SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) road races in Elkhart lake in

the early 1950s, as the first races were held on the public roads in and around Elkhart Lake, there was no "track". Of course, drivers and spectators died from time to time during those early races, it was just too dangerous. So, just like Watkins Glen, New York, after too many fatalities and growing public pressure, true 'road races' were banned and the racers, in the case of Elkhart Lake, got together, bought land and built a dedicated track for racing. This is how Elkhart Lake's Road America came about.

The 4 mile 14 turn track is largely unchanged from its original configuration, the place is still relatively undeveloped. They just put in flush toilets around the track in the past 15 or so years. Imagine a huge forest preserve that happens to have a race track running through it, that's Road America. There are no grand stands, nobody sits in steel bleachers all day. You find a good shade tree, set up your lawn chair on the grass, and in the case of this weekend, watch, listen to and smell millions of dollars worth of vintage racecars from all over the country, and the world for that matter, go by.

This particular event draws more cars and more vintage entrants than the Monterey Historics, many of the same cars attend this event. Owners and drivers come from across the United States to drive Road America and to participate in the Kohler International Challenge with Brian Redman, long time professional race driver who raced Formula 1 and, later in his career, sports and endurance cars.

I spent the weekend working on the race grid... as the race cars drive up to the false grid a team of SCCA workers and I identify



*Race car Concours d'Elegance, Friday night, downtown Elkhart Lake*



Big cars, big stars... Bobby Rahal's weekend fun ride.

each car by number, cross reference that number with their qualifying position for the race and put the car in the appropriate numbered space on the grid so they're all lined up in the right order when they take to the track.

As they sit on the grid we chat with drivers during down time and discuss their cars, but once the race draws closer we perform final safety checks on cars and drivers, adjust a mirror here and there (a driver can't reach their mirrors to adjust them once strapped in tightly). One car always stalls and we push it so the driver can pop the clutch if he can't get it re-fired from inside (usually an Italian or British car, no joke).

We watch for leaks, loose body panels, FIRE, loose wheel lug nuts, whatever you might see. I found a 12" long crescent wrench sitting against the back window of a racing car once... that would have become a potentially dangerous piece of steel had it made it out to the track.

We're all on radios to race control and eventually race control hands things over to the grid. When everyone is fired and ready and we have confirmation of a clear track, we release the cars to the pace car, hope the grid clears safely and in an orderly fashion and wait for the next race group to arrive on the grid.

That's the difference with this weekend, it isn't just one race or one race group. There are 10 different race groups made up of probably 50 different classes spanning about 70 years of automotive history and technology. From a Jaguar from 1950 to a Le Mans winning Audi racing prototype that might just be two or three years old, you've got it all at this event. There are individual practice and qualifying sessions for each race group and then each race group has a different race. Let's just say it's a very busy weekend on the grid.

I've been working with the SCCA for about 10 years now, which is very hard for me to believe. It's as close as you can get without actually being in a car and it's a blast. If you're into cars and racing, the SCCA is the BEST way to experience things first hand without actually owning or driving a race car.



Very rare and valuable Scaraab sports racer.



Historic Ferrari Formula 1, ex-Gilles Villeneuve.



Alfas and Porsches, oh my.



A pair of MGAs.



Lotus Super 7.



Jaguar XKE.



Could we ever pull something like this off? More than 30 Porsche 356s showed up from the Chicago and Milwaukee Region Porsche 356 Club, and that's ONE model!



Big power, McLaren Can Am.



Milwaukee and TC Section MBCA Club Members at Saturday Lunch: L to R: Sylvester & Marilyn Stys, Dave Tobin, Jerry Zajicek, Marybeth and Jim Pittlelkow.

There is no prize money, nobody is 'making money' vintage racing, quite the opposite, everyone is hemorrhaging money. Vintage racing is a very expensive endeavor and anyone racing at this event arrived with all the money they'll need. They do it because they love it and because they can... and thanks to the racers, the mechanics and the crews for coming out so these awesome machines can be seen (and heard and smelled) once again, so they can be used for what they were built for, racing and entertaining an adoring public.

I go to this event every year, I already have it on my calendar for 2012. Maybe we'll have a bigger crowd from the Mercedes-Benz Club next time. The KIC is absolutely worth attending. 🏎️



Search:  
 "Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Twin Cities Section"  
 and "LIKE" us on  
 facebook!

Club events are regularly posted on the club facebook page. Be sure to visit the facebook page and "Like" it to get up to date club info through facebook where you can comment and interact with other club members, confirm attendance at events and see what's happening in the club.

While the club website is the best place for club information about upcoming events and photos and reports of past events, the same information is also posted to the club facebook page and you can interact with other club members on the facebook page.

## Officers & Coordinators

### President

Jim Walrath (thru 2012).....715-723-8844  
 jwalrathmbca-tc@charter.net

### Vice-President

Christopher Haas (thru 2013).....612-810-4227  
 chaas@exit-advisors.com

### Secretary

Scott Hegstrand (thru 2012).....612-619-8615  
 Scott.Hegstrand@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

### Treasurer

Warren Rauch (thru 2014).....612-729-1812  
 wmrauch@usfamily.net

### 2011 Directors

Jim Walrath (thru 2012)  
 Christopher Haas (thru 2013)  
 Scott Hegstrand (thru 2012)  
 Warren Rauch (thru 2014)  
 Dave Tobin (thru 2014).....651-216-1265  
 dave@daveknowscars.com  
 Bruce Kelly (thru 2013).....612-724-1399  
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 Bill Milkes (thru 2014).....612-877-1941  
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### Officer Recruitment and Development

Dave Bortner.....612-590-5110

### New Member Welcoming

Jim Walrath .....715-723-8844

### Membership Roster Keeper

Jim Walrath .....715-723-8844

### Events Coordinators

Chris & Paul Bergquist.....952-937-1822

### Driving Event Coordinators

John Olson.....612-377-0155  
 Scott Hegstrand (Competition Events) 612-619-8615

### AMG Enthusiasts Group

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 Mechanical - Ken Chevrette.....651-503-4061  
 Auto Body - Mike Wells.....952-546-5301

### Newsletter Editor

Dave Tobin.....651-216-1265

### "The Star" Correspondent

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### Technical Editor

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 Louis Wendling.....612-386-1051

### Internet Marketing Director

Reggie Matter.....763-951-8868

### Lion's Tap Info

John Elliott.....952-941-4040

### Croissant Club Info

Scott Hegstrand.....612-619-8615

### Pagoda W-113 Enthusiasts Group

Ken Garelick.....651-452-2807

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 Warren Rauch.....612-729-1812

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 (Sears Imported Autos)  
 Werner Huber.....763-546-2586  
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 Bruce Bigalke.....651-483-2681  
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 Rick Engman.....952-837-6306  
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 Maplewood Imports  
 George Andeweg (Dealer).....651-483-2681  
 Ursula Lamprecht (Club).....651-484-7451  
 Sear's Imported Autos  
 John Drewitz (Dealer).....952-546-5301  
 Paul Bergquist (Club).....952-937-1822

### Regional Director - Midwest Region

Bill Denton.....630-655-0239

### Past Section Presidents

Dave Bortner .....2010  
 Mark Flaten.....2007 - 2009  
 Louis Wendling.....2000 - 2007  
 Paul Bergquist.....1993 - 2000  
 Milt Borgen.....1991 - 1993  
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**Submit ad copy and photo to Dave Tobin via email: [dave@daveknowscars.com](mailto:dave@daveknowscars.com) Questions? Call Dave at (651) 216-1265**



94' E320 Cabriolet. 54,800 mi. 6 cyl, 3.2 liter, rear-wheel drive. Great condition. 3 yr limited production, only 3,290 sold in US, rare collectible model. \$18,500 OBO. Have more pics available. Please contact Maureen at 612-865-0965 or [mobenzzy@hotmail.com](mailto:mobenzzy@hotmail.com)



1972 Mercedes-Benz 280SE. Light Ivory with brown interior. Automatic transmission. Just under 66,000 original miles, stored for last 6 years, resurrected and sorted this Summer, runs and drives great, a driver quality car. Contact: Joel in Owatonna Ph: (507) 363-6754

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Sale Administrators

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PH: 612-377-0155

# Calendar of Events

## NOVEMBER

2 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

16 - Wednesday: Board of Directors Meeting 6:00pm DAVANNI'S - Minnetonka.

18 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

20 – Old Log Theater – Matinee and brunch. Contact: John Elliot - Ph: (952) 941-4040 See full page event flyer in this issue, Page 5.

## DECEMBER

3 – Annual Holiday Party. 5:00 - 9:00 at Olympic Hills Country Club, Eden Prairie. See Full page event flyer on page 7 of this news letter.

Contact: **Dean & Marguerite Rosenow**  
Ph: (952) 944-2244

7 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

16 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

## JANUARY 2012

4 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

18 – Wednesday: Club Board of Directors Meeting at Davanni's in Minnetonka. 6:00pm

20 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

21 - Saturday: Ellingson Car Museum Visit and Tour. Rogers, MN 10:00am - 12:00 noon followed by lunch at Denny's Classic Diner for those wanting to stay for lunch.  
Contact: Paul Bergquist (952) 937-1822.

## FEBRUARY

1 – Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

12 – Sunday, 10:30am: Annual Valentine's Brunch at Lord Fletchers on Lake Minnetonka. Contact: Lloyd and Shirley Hubbard (952) 474-7385.  
*Space is limited, sign up early!*

17 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

## MARCH

7 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

16 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

21 - Wednesday: Club Board of Directors Meeting at Davanni's in Minnetonka. 6:00pm

24 - Saturday: Member Appreciation Party - Auto MotorPlex Chanhassen. Tentatively planned for 5:00pm - 8:00pm. Contact: Christopher Haas (612) 810-4227... Details to come!

## APRIL

4 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

20 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

21 - Saturday: Event Needed! Maybe a Tech Event? Please contact Paul Bergquist with ideas, (952) 937-1822

## MAY

2 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

6 - Sunday: Maplewood Imports Auto Fair, 10:00am - 2:00pm. Contact: George Andeweg, (651) 483-2681

(May Continued...)

12 - Saturday - 9:00am: Intermarque "Vintage European Cars of the Upper Midwest" Spring Kick Off Car Show, Held in downtown Osseo, MN. Contact: Andy Lindberg (651) 292-8585. This is a large gathering of all types of vintage European cars, informal and fun! See [www.intermarque.org](http://www.intermarque.org) for more information.

16 – Wednesday: Club Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00pm

18 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

## JUNE

6 - Wednesday: Lion's Tap – 6:30pm

9 - Saturday: German Car Fest - PENDING. We may be making some changes to this event this year.

16 - Saturday: Stockholm Motorsports Park, Go cart outing (TENTATIVE)  
Contact: L Warren Rauch 612-730-4568

15 - Friday: Croissant Club – 11:30am

***Do you have an event suggestion? Is there somewhere you know about that you think other club members would enjoy? Please contact Club Event Coordinator Paul Bergquist or Club President Jim Walrath with your ideas!***

## REGULAR EVENTS

### *Croissant Club*

Lunch, coffee, pastries and Mercedes-Benz talk. Every third Friday of the month from 11:30am - 12:30pm  
Patrick's French Bakery Inside Bachman's  
6010 Lyndale Ave Minneapolis  
Ph: (612) 861-9277  
Additional Info Contact:  
Scott Hegstrand: (612) 619-8615

### *Lion's Tap*

Burgers, beer, and Mercedes-Benz talk. Every first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm  
1618 Flying Cloud Drive  
Eden Prairie - (952) 934-5299  
Additional Info Contact:  
John Elliott: (952) 941-4040  
Email: [jelliott@sicoinc.com](mailto:jelliott@sicoinc.com)

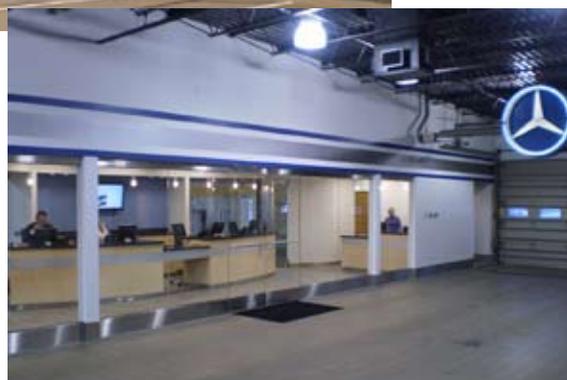
### *Cars and Coffee*

Every third Saturday of the month May through October :AutoMotorPlex 8200 Audobon Rd, Chanhassen Additional Info Contact: Bruno Siliowski: (612) 850-8398  
[bsilikowski@automotorplex.com](mailto:bsilikowski@automotorplex.com)



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