

HOT 100

2010-11 FALL/WINTER EVENT SAMPLER

When the weather cools down, the events heat up. Here's just a sampling of some the many fun and exciting events you'll find in Wisconsin. For even more great events, vacation ideas, travel planning tools, packages and deals and much more, visit travelwisconsin.com.

September

9/3-4

Dairyland Surf Classic – Sheboygan: The largest freshwater surfing competition in the world. Surfboard show. Saturday night surf party, and much more. Free to the public. 920/254-1050, visitsheboygan.com.

Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw – Prairie du Sac: Unique Wisconsin fun with cow chip throwing for children and adults. Arts & craft fair, parade, two stages of musical entertainment, food and lots of fun. Marion Park. 608/643-4317, wiscowchip.com.

9/3-5

Big Concertina Jamboree Festival – Allenton: Continuous concertina jamming on three stages with all players welcome. Dancing, Friday fish fry, concessions and camping. Town Hall & Veteran's Park. Fri & Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 11am-7pm. 888/974-8687, visitwashingtoncounty.com.

Borg Warner World Championship Off-Road Races – Crandon: Premier off-road racing at its best and most thrilling. 40,000 race fans attend; televised on the Speed Channel. 888/611-6092, crandonoffroad.com.

Great Northern Classic Rodeo – Superior: MRA/URA-sanctioned professional rodeo, including saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping, bareback riding, cowgirl's barrel racing, and bull riding. Fairgrounds. 218/727-6336, greatnorthernclassicrodeo.com.

Wilhelm Tell Fest – New Glarus: This annual Swiss festival includes a presentation of the "Tell Drama" performed in both English and German. The 3-day alpine festival also features yodeling, an art fair, children's lantern parade, and great ethnic food. 800/5276838, wilhelmtell.org.

Wisconsin Highland Games & Celtic Fling – Waukesha: Scottish and Irish athletics, a rugby tournament, Highland dancing, pipe & drum competition, cultural area, live music, demonstrations, workshops, parades, and food. Fri 5-10pm, Sat 9am-10pm, Sun 10am-8pm. 262/548-7200, wisconsinsscottish.org.

9/4-5

Taste of Madison – Madison: More than 65 local restaurants, 20 beverage stands and four entertainment stages draw 150,000 attendees. Food items range from \$1-4. Plenty of free, live music. Held on the state capitol square. 608/226-4780, madisonfestivals.com.

Revolutionary War Encampment – Saukville: Watch soldiers drill, tour the encampment, see a Revolutionary War battle. Enjoy an 18th century fashion show, watch and join in period dancing. Ozaukee Pioneer Village. 10am-5pm. 800/237-2874, www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/ochs.

9/4-6

Ho-Chunk Nation Pow-wow – Black River Falls: As a celebration of thanks, the Ho-Chunk Nation welcomes all friends and neighbors. Enjoy drumming, colorful competition dancing, and a variety of Native crafts from vendors across the country. 715/824-9343, ho-chunknation.com.

9/9-12

Springbrook Buckskinners Rendezvous – Antigo: Relive the fur trading years with black powder shooting, tomahawk and knife throwing contests, and demonstrations of canoe-making and leather tanning. Costumed reenactors, concessions & family fun. Antigo Lake Park. 715-623-5219, antigochamber.com.

9/10-11

Lake Geneva Wine Festival: Wine and culinary enthusiasts experience the talents and tastings of acclaimed vintners and chefs. Gourmet meals, seminars, silent auction and marketplace. Grand Geneva Resort & Spa. 262/245-8635, lakegenewinefestival.com.

9/10-12

Dairy Days – Platteville: Midway rides, concessions, 4-H exhibits, arts & craft fair, flea market, dairy show, truck/tractor pull, family entertainment, parade on Sat, car show on Sun. Legion Field. 608/348-8888, platteville.com.

Indian Summer Festival – Milwaukee: The largest Native American festival in the country. Competition Pow-wow, tribal village, lacrosse tournament, juried fine arts, authentic foods, fireworks, and marketplace. Henry Maier Festival Park. Fri 4pm-mid, Sat noon-mid, Sun 11am-10pm. 414/604-1000, indiansummer.org.

◀ Indian Summer Festival in Milwaukee.



9/10-12, CONTINUED

VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart Lake: The final public race of the season celebrates the beauty and speed of classic race cars like the Alfa Romeo, Austin Healey, MG, Porsch, Jag and Triumph. Road America. Admission. 800/365-7223, roadamerica.com.

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival – Jefferson: Stock dog trials, sheep, Shetland and Border Collie shows, auction, fiber art classes and demos, fleece show and sale, hooked-rug show. Concessions. Fairgrounds. Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm. 608/868-2505, wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com.

9/11

Sun Prairie Blues Fest – Sun Prairie: Blues music by Madison, Midwestern and national performers. Concessions, beer tent. Angell Park. Noon-10pm. 608/235-8475, spbluesfest.com.

US Watermelon Speed-Eating and Seed-Spitting Championships – Pardeeville: Competitions, carving contest, free watermelon (all you can eat), arts & crafts fair, food and fun. Chandler Park. Event starts at 9am, with championships at 2pm. 608/429-2525, pardeevillewatermelonfestival.com.

9/11-12

Artrageous Weekend – Wausau: A tripeheader of fine art - the Festival of Art, a juried show featuring the work of 100 artists held in the downtown pedestrian mall; Art in the Park, a fine art & craft show featuring 130 vendors in Marathon Park; and the annual Birds in Art exhibit at the Woodson Art Museum. 9am-5pm. 715/842-1676, wausaufoa.org.

Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien: One of the largest, most elegant carriage driving competitions in the nation. More than 100 drivers, their horses and carriages compete on the lawns and grounds of the Villa Louis. Full beverage and food service. 8am-4pm. 608/326-2721, villalouis.org

9/12

Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon – Madison: Cheer on more than 2,000 athletes as they swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles. The competition begins at 7am at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center and concludes at midnight on the Capitol Square. 608/226-4780, ironmanwisconsin.com.

9/13-26

SCCA National Championship Runoffs – Elkhart Lake: This is the most prestigious racing event in the world, drawing an average 650 racers since 2000. Often referred to as the "Olympics of Motorsports." Road America. 800/365-7223, roadamerica.com.

9/15-19

Tomahawk Fall Ride – Tomahawk: The ride attracts more than 40,000 motorcycle enthusiasts. Enjoy top entertainment plus the newest cycles and accessories from Harley-Davidson. Huge local fund raiser for MDA in North Central Wisconsin. Downtown. 800/569-2160, tomahawkfallride.com.

9/17-18

Cannons & Redcoats Military Event – Prairie du Chien: See 20 historic stations in this living history exhibit of life in 1814 Prairie du Chien. Exhibits include candle making, bowl carving, lead pouring, and cannon firing. Fort Crawford Museum. 8:30am-4pm. 608/326-6960, fortcrawfordmuseum.com.

9/17-19

Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable: The premier mountain bike racing event in the nation. Friday is warm-up day. Saturday is race day: the Chequamegon 40 is a 40-mile race with 1,700 participants; the Short and Fat is a 16-mile race. Sunday is fun day. Telemark Lodge. 877/798-4718, cheqfatire.com.

Green County Cheese Days – Monroe: Green County is the epicenter of Wisconsin cheesemaking. Enjoy Swiss music and dancing, parades, cheese factory tours, cheesemaking demonstrations, an art & craft fair, and every type of cheese imaginable. 800/307-7208, cheesedays.com.

Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls: A full weekend of German fun. Three stages of live entertainment, amazing family fun activities, scrumptious food, and more. Fairgrounds. Fri 11am-11pm, Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 9:30am-4pm. 866/723-0340, chippewachamber.org.

Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells: Celebrate fall in the Dells, Wisconsin's family fun capitol. Enjoy an arts & crafts fair, antique flea market, Maxwell Street Days, a fun run, concessions, entertainment, and a spectacular 100-unit parade. Bowman Park & downtown. 800/223-3557, wisdells.com.

9/18

Whooping Crane & Wildlife Festival – Necedah: Narrated bus tours of the Necedah Wildlife Refuge include a look at these endangered birds and efforts to protect them. Exhibits, crafters, other bus tours, food and live music. Lions Park. 7am-9pm. 608/565-2101, whooping-crane-festival.com.

9/18-19

Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield: 200 arts & crafts booths, Amish specialties, food court, beer garden, live entertainment, and pancake breakfast both days. Maple syrup demos, judging and maple recipe contest. Wildwood Park. Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. 800/422-4541, visitmarshfield.com.

Wine & Harvest Festival – Cedarburg: Farmer's market, Arts on the Avenue, scarecrow contest, pumpkin carving, grape stomp, grape spit and apple bobbing contests. Food courts, live bands, hayrides, Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm. 800/237-2874, cedarburgfestivals.org.

9/19

Autorama – Beloit: More than 1,000 show cars including street rods, custom, Corvettes, classics, antiques, and high performance vehicles. One of the largest one-day shows in the Midwest with a car corral, parts swap, and arts & crafts. Preservation Park. 9am-3pm. 608/290-3628, beloitautorama.com.

9/23-10/3

Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee: The festival, in its second year, will screen 150 of the world's top films in three city venues. Tickets on sale now. 414/755-1965, Milwaukee-film.org.

9/24-26

Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens: Thousands of flea/antique/farm market booths, an art & craft show, cranberry harvest tours, a gigantic parade, midway thrills, hundreds of food booths, entertainment, more than 150,000 spectators. Downtown. 7am-6pm. 608/3784200, cranfest.com.

9/24-10/2

Oktoberfest – La Crosse: One of the Midwest's largest German festivals with the Maple Leaf Parade and Torchlight Parade, live music, run/walk, concessions, contests, midway thrills, ethnic food and beverages. Oktoberfest Park near the Mississippi River. 608/784-3378, oktoberfestusa.com.

9/24-25

Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua: Dance Fri night from 6-9:30pm. On Sat enjoy the Rump Roast Run (9am), a Craft Show (9am-5pm), the famous Parade of Beef (2:45pm), sandwich sales from 1-4pm, music and concessions. Torpy Park. Fri 7-10pm, Sat 9am-7pm. 800/446-6784, minocqua.org.

9/25

Oktoberfest – Appleton: Enjoy more than 100 food booths serving ethnic delights, live music on five stages, a large arts and crafts area on the campus of Lawrence University, the Applefest recipe contest, and a Family Fun area. Downtown. 9am-6pm. 920/734-3377, oktoberfestonline.org.

9/25-26

Fall Jefferson Car Show – Jefferson: Swap meet, car corral and car show for classics, collectibles, street rods and trucks. More than 3,100 vendor stalls and 1,200 cars for sale. Swap and car corral both days; car show Sunday only. Jefferson County Fairgrounds. 6am-4pm. 608/244-8416, jeffersonswapmeet.com.

Gays Mills Apple Fest – Gays Mills: Festival includes arts & crafts fair, huge flea market, 2K & 5K run and walk, horseshoe tournament, pancake breakfast, food stands, music, and parade at 1:30pm on Sun. 9am-5pm. 608/735-4341, gaysmills.org.

Spirit of St. Croix Days – Hudson: An art and food festival held on the banks of the St. Croix River in historic downtown Hudson. Includes a juried art show with more than 65 artists, food and more. Lakefront Park. 800/657-6775, hudsonwi.org.

Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush: Wisconsin's biggest Civil War reenactment. Two historic battles each day featuring cavalry, infantry and artillery units. Military drills, artillery and musket firing demonstrations, Civil War-era music, concessions, tours of the Wade House. 10am-5pm. 866/944-7483, wadehouse.org.

9/26

Elkhorn Antique Flea Market – Elkhorn: More than 500 dealers with antiques, crafts and flea market merchandise. A huge show that fills the Walworth County Fairgrounds. Concessions. Starts at 7am. 414/525-0820, nlpromotionsllc.com.

October

10/1-2

Apple Affair – Galesville: Saturday, watch as a 10-foot apple pie bakes on the square. Enjoy breakfast omelets, then brats, apple pies & caramel apples. Crafts sale, flea market, historic displays, live music, & bike tours through the orchards. 608/582-2868, galesvillewi.com.

10/1-3

Audubon Days – Mayville: Bed races down Main St. on Fri night. Arts & craft fair, car show, bike tour, and run/walk on Sat. Huge parade on Sun. Live music Thur, Fri & Sat nights. Food and children's events. 800/256-7670, audubondays.com.

Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield: Orchards and food booths selling apples, apple desserts & delicacies, arts & crafts fair, Venetian boat parade, carnival rides, music, parade, apple peeling contest, fish boil and more. Downtown. 10am-5pm. 800/4474094, bayfield.org.

Fresh Art Tour – Pierce & Pepin Counties: A rare opportunity to visit the working studios and galleries of 17 artists in the Maiden Rock, Stockholm and Pepin area of the Mississippi River Valley. 10am-5pm. 715/672-8188, freshart.org.

10/2

Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake: One of Wisconsin's largest cranberry festivals featuring marsh tours of the harvest, craisins, cranberries, hundreds of crafters, a farmers' market, sportsman's lane, cranberry pancake breakfasts and parade. 715/865-3378, stonelakecranberryfestival.com.



▲ Cheese Days in Monroe.

DUSTY SWANER



EAGLE RIVER SNOWMOBILE DERBY PHOTO

▲ World Championship Snowmobile Derby, Eagle River.

10/2-3

Cranberry Fest – Eagle River: Huge arts and crafts show, world's largest cranberry cheesecake, cranberry cook-off, cranberry marsh tours, chain saw carvings, fresh cranberries and craisin sales, antique market. Fairgrounds. Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 9am-3pm. 800/359-6315, eagleriver.org.

Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Festival – Nekoosa: Growers from across the state weigh their giant pumpkins for international competition. Festival also features giant pumpkin drop, pumpkin boat races, antique tractor & car show, entertainment & food. Riverside Park. 9am-4pm. 715/570-7133, nekoosagiantpumpkinfest.com.

10/8-9

Whistlestop Marathon/Half Marathon & Festival – Ashland: Lake Superior fish boil and pasta feed on Fri. Races on Sat with the half-marathon at 8am and the marathon at 9am. Post-race party and awards ceremony followed by Blues and Brew Fest from 7:30pm-mid. 800/284-9484, whistlestopmarathon.com.

10/9

Kermis Dutch Festival – Little Chute: Enjoy an arts & crafts fair, authentic Dutch food, live Dutch music, wooden shoe carving & Dutch folk painting demos, clog dancing, Dutch costume dress-up, carriage rides and more. 10am-10pm. 920/788-7380, littlechutewindmill.org.

10/9-10

Hmong New Year Celebration – West Salem: One of the largest Hmong populations in the state celebrates with Hmong traditional ball tossing, cultural performances, food & clothes booths, and sports tournaments. Veterans Memorial Park. 608/781-5744



RI & LINDA MILLER

▲ Giant Pumpkin Festival, Nekoosa.

Norskedalen's Civil War Heritage Weekend

– **Coon Valley:** Norskedalen and Company B, 2nd Wisconsin Civil War Re-enactors present living history with daily drills, battles and demonstrations. Wander the grounds visiting troops in complete costume and character. 9am-4pm. 608/452-3424, Norskedalen.org.

Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor: Family fun, children's activities, outdoor entertainment, food and refreshments, and silent auction on Saturday. Harbor View Park. 920/868-3717, egg Harbor-wi.com.

Oktoberfest – Lake Geneva: Food booths, farmers' market, craft booths, children's activities, strolling musicians, pumpkin giveaway, street dance and much more. 10am-5pm. 800/345-1020, lakegenewawi.com

10/15-17

Fall Art Tour – Southwestern Wisconsin: Meet 41 area artists and watch them at work in the Baraboo, Spring Green, Dodgeville and Mineral Point area. Features potters, weavers, glassblowers, woodworkers, painters, jewelers, quilters, photographers & sculptors. 10am-6pm. 608/356-9048, fallarttour.com.

Sheboygan Shindig – Sheboygan: Art-making workshops with artists and illustrators, tours of the Animal Magnetism exhibit, live animals, and more at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Part of the city's 2010 Children's Book Festival. 920/458-6144, jmkac.org.

November

11/13-14

Trainfest – West Allis: See more than 50 operating layouts from Z to G scale, 60 manufacturer's areas, 50 hobby dealers, 12 historical groups, kid's activities, demonstrations & how-to clinics, locomotive testing and more. State Fair Park Expo Center. 9am-5:30pm. 262/820-3566, trainfest.com.

11/19-21

Holiday Art Fair – Madison: 90 juried artists exhibit ceramics, fiber art, glass, jewelry, paintings, prints, photographs, and more. Live entertainment, holiday refreshments, and the popular Gourmet Gallery. Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Fri noon-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-3pm. 608/257-0158, mmoca.org.

Holiday Folk Fair International – West Allis: America's premier cultural festival. Explore the world's diverse cultures as you sample regional cuisine, enjoy lively music and dance, and purchase beautifully hand-crafted goods. State Fair Park Expo Center. Fri 3-10pm, Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 10am-7pm. 800/324-7468, folkfair.org.

11/19-1/9

Nutcracker in the Castle – Oshkosh: The Nutcracker story unfolds in the historic rooms of the Paine Art Center and Gardens, elaborately decorated as the fantastic scenes of the beloved ballet. Special actor-guided tours with live music and youth ballet performances by reservation. 920/235-6903, thepaine.org.

11/21

Tinsel Trail Arts & Crafts Show – Stevens Point: More than 130 high quality exhibitors featuring all hand crafted items, bake sale, food and refreshments. Sponsored by the Stevens Point Junior Women's Club. Holiday Inn. 9am-4pm. 715/344-3572

11/23

Appleton Downtown Christmas Parade – Appleton: Wisconsin's largest nighttime Christmas parade with more than 100 floats, bands and marching units. Costume judging at 5:30pm; Santa Scamper 1-mile run at 6pm; parade starts at 6:30pm. 920/954-9112, appletondowntown.org.

11/26-28

Holiday Art, Craft & Gift Expo – West Allis: The Midwest's largest indoor gift show – just in time for the holidays. Craft demonstrations, gourmet food stage, live music and wine tasting. State Fair Park Expo Center. Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. 262/506-4114, craftfairwisconsin.com.

December

12/3-5

Christmas in the Country – Cedarburg: This folk and fine arts Christmas boutique features 70 juried artists. Browse fiber arts, Santas, ornaments, basketry, furniture, mosaics, edible delicacies and more. Cedar Creek Winery. Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. 800/827-8020, cedarcreekwinery.com.

12/3-5, 12/10-12, 12/17-19 & 12/24-28

Garden of Lights – Green Bay: A holiday favorite with 200,000 lights crafted in flowers, butterflies, and other botanical themes. Walk the .8-mile trail or take a horse-drawn wagon ride. Green Bay Botanical Gardens. 877-355-4224, gbbg.org.

12/3-12

Old World Christmas Market – Elkhart Lake: A traditional, European Christmas Market featuring authentic gifts, toys, ornaments and food specialties from international and regional artisans. Thousands of twinkling white lights. Admission fee. The Osthoff Resort. Daily, 10am-5pm. 800/876-3399, christmasmarketatosthoff.com.

12/4

UW-Parkside Arts & Crafts Sale – Kenosha: A shopper's extravaganza featuring more than 175 talented artisans and

crafters, free admission, live music, dining facilities, wrapping station, and free shuttle service from parking lots to the complex. 10am-4pm. 262/595-2278, www.uwp.edu.

12/4, 12/11 & 12/18

A Heritage Hill Christmas – Green Bay: Outdoor museum with 25 period buildings dressed for the holidays. Stroll this historic town, enjoy costumed carolers, and drink plenty of hot chocolate. Heritage Hill State Park. 800/721-5150, heritagehillgb.org.

January

1/1

Polar Bear Swim – Sheboygan: On New Year's Day at 1pm, 400 daring swimmers charge into Lake Michigan. 10am registration at the Armory where there's music, entertainment, brat fry and refreshments from 10am-6pm. 920/467-8436.

1/13-16

World Championship Snowmobile Derby – Eagle River: The world's premier snowmobile racing event. 1,400-plus entries compete for oval and snow-cross championships in front of 30,000 spectators. 715/479-4424, derbytrack.com.

1/14-15

Bald Eagle Watching Days – Prairie du Sac: Each winter, dozens of eagles gather here to fish the open waters of the Wisconsin River. Enjoy Birds of Prey shows, guided bus tours, wildlife photography seminars, and aerial antics. River Arts Center. 800/683-2453, saukprairie.com.

1/14-16

Ragtime Festival – Eau Claire: International headliners warm-up the weekend with rollicking ragtime, early jazz and boogie music. 715/834-2668, ecragtime.org.

1/21-23

Flake Out Festival – Wisconsin Dells: Bring the family for one of the largest winter festivals in the Midwest. Wisconsin's only state-sanctioned snow sculpting competition. Buffalo Phil's Pizza & Grille. 608/253-2200, flakeoutfestival.com.

1/21-30

Milwaukee Boat Show: The state's largest boat show featuring new boats, marine accessories and products for the boating lifestyle. Two full weekends. Expo Center, West Allis. 616/447-2860, showspan.com.

1/28-30

Shades of Blue Tattoo Show – La Crosse: The finest tattoo artists in the Midwest gather for this annual show. Artistic displays and competitions, tattoos done during the show. La Crosse Center. Opens Fri at 4pm, Sat & Sun at 10:30am. 608/789-7400, lacrossecenter.com.

1/28-30 & 2/4-6

Badger State Winter Games – Wausau Area: Olympic-style competition for 10,000 Wisconsin amateur athletes, held over two weekends. Competition in skiing, snowboarding, ski jumping, hockey, curling, skating, snowmobiling and snowshoe racing. Indoor competition includes soccer, bowling, badminton, archery and billiards. 608/226-4780, sportsinwisconsin.com.

1/29

Bloomer Rope Jump contest – Bloomer: 20-35 participating schools and approximately 240 jumpers try to break the records in the Jump Rope Capital of the World. Bloomer High School. Prelims at 12:30pm; finals at 7pm. 715/568-3339, www.bloomer.net/~bchamber.

February

2/1-6

Winterfest & National Snow Sculpting Championships – Lake Geneva: Fifteen 3-member teams from across the US sculpt 10-foot blocks of snow throughout the week. Enjoy outdoor activities, musical entertainment, helicopter and horse-drawn carriage rides. 800/345-1020, lakegenewavi.com.

2/4-5

125th Annual Silvermine Invitation – Eau Claire: USSA-sanctioned ski jumping on the Flying Eagles' 90-meter hill. Competition among five Central Division clubs. 715/839-2677, ec-skiclub.com.

Snowflake International Ski Jumping Tournament – Westby: More than 150 top skiers from the US and 13 foreign countries soar 300 feet on "Timber Coulee," the 90-meter, Olympic-sized hill. 608/634-3211, snowflakeskiclub.com.

2/4-6

Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race – Bayfield: 100 teams in two main races: an 8-dog, 80-mile race and a 6-dog, 60-mile race. A 40-mile Sportsman's Race and a 16 and under 10-mile Family Race will also be held. Heated warming tent, bonfire, and concessions. 10am start both days. 800/447-4094, bayfield.org.

Hot Air Affair – Hudson: 30 hot air balloons participate in racing and precision flying. In the evenings, balloons are tethered and illuminated for "moonglow" viewing. Torchlight parade, marketplace, craft fair, volleyball in the snow, food & music. Launches Sat & Sun at 7:30am, Sat at 3pm. 800/657-6775, hudsonhotairaffair.com.

2/5

Otter Street Fisheree – Oshkosh: Annual ice fishing tournament on Lake Winnebago with lots of raffle prizes, food, and fun. Motorcycle racing, and off-road racing on the ice. Menominee Park. 10am-5pm. 920/231-7380

2/5-6

Arti Gras – Green Bay: An annual visual & performing arts festival featuring the works of 100 artists. Continuous performing arts, "edible arts," and hands-on projects for kids. Brown County Arena. Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. 920/494-3401, artseventsinc.com.

Iola Winter Carnival – Iola: This annual Scandinavian winter carnival features a super ski jumping tournament (part of the Badger State Winter Games), an authentic and delicious Norwegian lutefisk dinner, and craft show. 715/445-4005, waupacaareachamber.com.

2/11-13

Sandbox Indoor Trail Marathon – New Richmond: Distances for runners of all ages and abilities including a full and half-marathon, 4-person marathon relay, 5k, 10k and a one-lap youth run. Sandbox Arena. 800/654-6380, sandboxindoormarathon.com.

2/12-13

Winter Festival – Cedarburg: Winter family fun with the Ice-Burg Open golf tournament, art show & sale, pancake breakfast, wine tasting, bed races, ice sculptures, a dog pulling contest, snow parade, music, and casino night. Cool Brews & Blues Sat night. 800/237-2874, cedaburgfestivals.org.

2/18-21

Beloit International Film Festival – Beloit: A dozen venues around Beloit will host 120 films, 30 premieres, lectures, social events, late night BIFF After Dark parties and other opportunities to meet more than 80 independent filmmakers. Presented in cooperation with Beloit College. 608/313-1200, beloitfilmfest.com.



▲ American Birkebeiner, Cable to Hayward.

2/19

Book Across the Bay Cross-Country Ski Race – Ashland: Ski race and tour, or snowshoe trek across Chequamegon Bay from Ashland to Washburn. Navigate the 10K course by the light of the stars plus hundreds of candlelit ice luminaries. Join more than 3,300 racers. Starts at 6pm. 800/284-9484, batb.org.

2/19-20

Mad City Model Railroad Show – Madison: 90,000 sq ft of model train layouts in Z, N, HO, S, O and G scales, classic toy trains, exhibits and videos. Browse 300+ tables of tools, railroad collectibles, models, books, clothing and artwork. Alliant Energy Center. 9am-5pm. 608/267-3976, nmra-scdwd.org

2/24-27

Milwaukee RV & Camping Trailer Show – West Allis: More than 100 dealers exhibit pop-up campers, truck campers, travel trailers, fifth wheels, motor homes, and park models of all sizes. State Fair Park Expo Center. Thur & Fri 1-9pm, Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-5pm. 414/463-7640, milwaukeevshow.com.

2/25-27

Madison Fishing Expo – Madison: Fishing tackle, equipment and boats from the industry's leading manufacturers. With 20,000 attendees, this is the largest fishing show in the Midwest. Alliant Energy Center. Fri 4-9pm, Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 9am-5pm. 608/245-1040, madfishexpo.com.

2/26

American Birkebeiner – Hayward/Cable: North America's largest and most prestigious X-C ski race. 8,000 competitors of all ages, genders and nationalities participate in the 51K Birkebeiner, the 23K Kortelopet, the children's Barnebirkie, Junior Birkie, Elite Sprints, and Citizen Sprints. 800/872-2753, birkie.com.

2/26-3/6

Greater Milwaukee Auto Show – Milwaukee: See the newest model automobiles and admire the classics at this annual family event. Frontier Airlines Center. Mon-Thur 3-9pm; Fri 1-10pm; Sat 10am-10pm; Sun 10am-6pm. 414/908-6001, midwestairlinescenter.com.

March

3/4-6

Hayward 300 Snocross Race – Hayward: See the best ISOC snocross drivers and teams in racing that begins on Friday under the lights and continues throughout the weekend. Food, merchandise, demo sleds, prize drawings and Sat night dance. LCO Casino. 800/724-2992, hayward300.com.

3/5-6

Klondike Days – Eagle River: Winter festival featuring an 1800's voyageur rendezvous, lumberjack competition, horse and dog weight-pull, chain-saw carving competition, a Native American cultural exposition, art & craft show, food, music and fun. 9am-4pm. 800/359-6315, klondikedays.org.



▲ St. Patrick's Day Parade, Milwaukee.

3/9-13

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show – West Allis: See and sample the latest in fishing, boating, hunting and camping equipment and technology. Book your summer adventure with outfitters and resort operators. State Fair Park Expo Center. 800/472-2070, jsonline.com/sportsshow.

3/11-13

Canoeopia – Madison: Hosted by Rutabaga, this is the largest paddlesport expo in the world. Hundreds of exhibitors, the nation's top paddlers, education, inspiration and access to great gear at great prices. Alliant Energy Center. Fri 4-9pm, Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm. 608/233-9300, canoeopia.com.

3/12

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Milwaukee: One of the best St. Patrick's Day Parades in the country, and the largest parade in Wisconsin. With nearly 140 units marching, it's a wonderful celebration of Irish life. Noon-1:30pm. 414/276-6696, saintpatricksparade.org.



▲ Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race in Bayfield.