



The Constellation

APRIL 2008

SERVING OVER 450 MEMBERS IN COLORADO, WYOMING, NEBRASKA AND UTAH

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MB OF WESTMINSTER
May 3rd

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SPECIAL INSERT
25TH ANNUAL
EXOTIC SPORTS CAR **JUNE**
SHOW & CONCOURS **8TH**
D'ELEGANCE BENEFIT- **2008**
TING CEREBRAL PALSY
OF COLORADO

April
Monthly Social
April 16th—6:30 pm
Patsy's Inn
3651 Navajo St., Denver

This informal get-together is always fun and always the third Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm. Generally someone is there till at least 8, so you can even come late and have dessert. Call Jay at 303-935-8270 for directions, or if you would like more information. The May Social will be held at **Café de France**, 7301 S. Santa Fe (Aspen Grove Center—Santa Fe & Mineral).

SEE YOU AT
THE SOCIAL!



NEW MEMBER BBQ

(and general good time)
April 19, 2007- 4:30 pm

All new members since Jan. 2007 are invited !!
No cost for new members

Spring is here and it's getting close to Rally season and Car Show season. It's also the time of year your Mile-High Section Board gets together and invites new members to be wined and dined. **On Saturday, April 19th**, your Board will host a Welcome New Member BBQ at the home of Randy and Phyllis Williams at 9704 N. Heather Drive, in Castle Rock.

Each year, the MHS Board members like to take this opportunity to get to know our new members, introduce ourselves, discuss the 2008 schedule of events, and get input as to how the Mile-High Section can best serve you.

The event will start at 4:30 p.m. with dinner being served around 5:30 p.m. Dinner will consist of a Santa Maria-style BBQ with tri-tips and chicken as the main course. Soft drinks, wine, and beer will be served. Can't you just taste those tri-tips?! The only thing better than the guacamole dip, the tri-tips and the wine is the laughter and great company of your fellow MHS members!

This is the spring party that your Board looks forward to putting on all year! Please RSVP on the registration form on the back page to ensure sufficient food is available. We look forward to meeting each of you. If you have any questions, please call Randy Williams at 303-799-4806.

REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK PAGE

Behind the Wheel

With Jay Hokanson,
President, Mile High Section



I just want to briefly mention a few things in my column this month. In the March Constellation we included a flyer provided by the High Plains Raceway. If you have been watching their website you have seen that they are getting closer to their \$3 million goal but they still need around \$500K. If you haven't donated yet, this is a good time to help push them to their goal.

The new member party has been moved to April 19th due to a conflict. The party is for members that have joined since January 2007. There is no cost for those members or MHS Board members who attend. Randy and Phyllis always do a fantastic job of hosting this party.

If your car has been in winter storage, it's time to get it out and get it ready for **Harvey's Spring Rally May 18th**. If you have been driving your Mercedes all winter, then clean off the mag chloride, shine it up and get ready for a Sunday drive. Harvey and Diane do a great job with their rallies and there is no better way to kick off the summer than with a rally (*See the article on page 5*)

Ryan Bunn has arranged for a chance to come look over the new **C-Class May 3rd at Mercedes-Benz of Westminster**. We'll get a chance to tour the shop and dealership and really look over and drive the cars after hours with this private showing. (*See the article on page 3*)

Heather and Nick Martinez at Detailer's Paradise have put together a detail session on May 31st on how to take care of the interior of your Mercedes (*See the article on page 4*). If you have some tired and worn spots they will show you how to bring it back to life. It's a perfect time to get started shining up your car for summer and our June car shows. The first show is the 25th Annual Exotic Sports Car Show and Concours d'Elegance at Arapahoe Community College on June 8th (*See the special insert included with this issue*).
- Jay Hokanson

Mile-High Section, Inc. of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

- ♦ Douglas Connors
- ♦ Robert Foster, MD
- ♦ Allen Blomquist
- ♦ Bernard Gateau
- ♦ Richard Guthart
- ♦ Alec Donachy
- ♦ Matthew Bridgstock



If you have not received your New Member Packet, please contact Laura Lass at 303-776-8276 or laurawlass@gmail.com.

Please feel free to contact any member if you have questions, or would like more information on club activities!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR NEXT EVENT!

The Constellation

Newsletter of the Mile-High Section, Inc., Mercedes-Benz Club America, Inc.

Mile-High Section, Inc. MBCA, Publisher

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**C'ing
IS
Believing**

**C to Shining C Tech Session Event
Saturday May 3rd 3:30 p.m.
Mercedes-Benz of Westminster**

Tech session time everyone! Mercedes-Benz has recently released the 4th generation baby Benz and is using it to showcase a number of new technological advancements designed to compete with the best from BMW, Audi, and Lexus.



If you haven't gotten a chance to check it out or even get some seat time behind the wheel, don't miss the **C to Shining C Event** held at Mercedes-Benz of Westminster on **Saturday May 3rd**.

Refreshments will be served at the event, starting around 3:30 p.m. and then we will have dinner (on your own) someplace across the street afterward. **Cost for the event is \$10 per person.** Pre-registration is much appreciated to have an accurate head count for the event as well as dinner.



REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK PAGE!

C you there!

GARAGE TOUR 2008

Max Townsend and Bob Fletcher are organizing the 2008 Garage Tour and are looking for one or two more garages to add to the tour. Tentative dates are at the end of July or early August. If you or a friend have a garage you would like to show off, or you know of a garage that you would like to see on the tour, give Max a call at 303-770-1128.



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- 1 year/unlimited mileage warranty on all work
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- complimentary courtesy vehicles
- free hand wash and vacuum with every visit

Independent garages can not approach this level of service, and other dealerships charge around \$115/hr for much less. Mercedes-Benz of Westminster also carries the region's largest inventory of genuine Mercedes-Benz parts, including hard-to-get items.

Finally, a professional service department that understands you shouldn't have to be covered by a warranty to deserve respect and value.



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If you'd like to be added to the list of members receiving email updates, email Jay Hokanson at jhokanso@comcast.net.



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**Get Your Car's Interior Ready for Spring!
Interior Detailing Tech Session
and Open House
Detailers Paradise 1745 S. Broadway
Saturday May 31, 2008
10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.**

Detailers Paradise is pleased to invite the Mercedes-Benz Club, Mile-High Section to an **Interior Detailing Tech Session and Open House**. This fun and educational event will be held at our retail store and training center at 1745 South Broadway in Denver (located just a few blocks north of Evans and just 1 mile south of I-25).

The detailing tech session will focus on interior care, including upholstery, dash, carpet, glass and leather. We'll begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. and some of the session will be hands-on. Our staff will also be available throughout the entire event to help you find solutions to any of your other detailing problems, including paint care, convertible tops, tire and wheel cleaning, metal polishing and more!

Join us for snacks and drinks while getting a chance to see many products and tools in action, including our own custom-blended Prima product line. Racing and other automotive DVDs will be shown in the entertainment area of our store for your viewing enjoyment. **Club-only sales and discounts in our store will be made available to all members, all day!** There's plenty of parking in our large private lot.

For more about the Tech Session, contact Heather Martinez at (303) 722-5107 or by email at heather@detailersparadise.com.

Cost to attend is \$5.00 per person. To register, fill out the registration form on the back page, and mail it with your registration fee to Max.

Track Event, Hastings, Nebraska, April 26-27

The Eastern-Nebraska Section, MBCA invites members of the Mile-High Section to join them for a track event on April 26 and 27th at Motorsport Park Hastings, Nebraska. <http://www.racemph.com/> The event includes a Driving School with track and class room time. There is a Friday night social at the nearby Comfort Inn which is also the suggested spot to stay. On Saturday there is a steak dinner at the track and they will have a bus with a bar for a social at the track.

The event is being run under BMWCCA rules. There are restrictions on the type of vehicles that can run on the track, so check with the track organizers before registering. Convertibles will need roll bars but SLK's should be fine. Snell 2000 or newer helmets are required. If interested, you can contact Clay Woodka, Eastern Nebraska Section President at 402-475-1822 or by email at benzivr@yahoo.com. Here is a link on how to register, <http://www.motorsportreg.com/calendar/> Scroll down to the event on "April 26-27th at Hastings Motorsport Park". Additional information is available on the BMWCCA site at <http://www.bmwccamvc.org> Then click on the "2008 Treiben Schnell Driver's School" link.

—Clay Woodka, Eastern Nebraska Section

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It's Rally Time in the Rockies — Get Ready for Harvey's Spring Rally

It's right around the corner --- the time of year when you can finally pull that prized possession out of the garage, and get ready to enjoy the open, not to mention un-sanded, road. And for those of you who may also harbor that competitive spirit, it's time for another special treat. **May 18th – Sunday** – will be the date of the Mile High Section's "season opener" rally. Details of this always fun event are still just a gleam in Harvey's eye (although a brighter gleam this month) – but rest assured, this Rally will be unique. Mark that date on your calendar and plan on a mid-morning departure from somewhere in the Denver metro area, finishing prior to 3 p.m. Make sure that you check the details in the companion article below for what to bring to ensure a competitive Rally score! **Cost to participate in the Rally is \$15 per car.** Lunch will be "pay as you go". The starting time and place will arrive in your mailbox in early May. Hope to see you on May 18th. **THIS IS ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR RALLIES, SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW! RESERVATION FORM ON BACK PAGE!**



Are You Rally Ready?

One of the most enjoyable events of car clubs everywhere is the Rally. Basically, a rally is a fun, scenic drive, in which you and your "navigator" follow written directions along pre-laid course, and answer questions from start to end. The "end" is always a spot with a great meal (and hopefully some liquid refreshment!), where horror stories, and tall tales from the drive abound. Sounds simple! But, part of the fun IS the competition. There are prizes awarded to those with the most correct answers. To help give you a competitive edge, here are a few "must have" items that could help to increase your chances of winning:

A Good Navigator – Most of you are most likely tied to a specific navigator on any rally you attend. Bringing a different person could really have a drastic effect on your home life. So, since a rally can be somewhat stressful – agree ahead of time with your navigator that you will be civil and even cordial.

A Clipboard – It's nice to write on a hard surface when answering the questions. Points are usually deducted for holes or rips in your answer sheet – or at least, it reflects shoddy work. (One caveat: See "civil and cordial" above— a clipboard can be used as a weapon.)

Some Maps - It's always nice to have a map of the area you are driving. It could save you the embarrassment of having to open your EMERGENCY envelope if you get lost. Carry a few different ones.

A Pocket Encyclopedia – This tool is invaluable. I was once asked, "How many *cupolas* do you see?", at a certain point on the rally. What the heck is a *cupola*? The next tool allowed me to find out – but what if no one was home?

Cell Phone – This probably goes without saying – but will certainly help in many situations (for example, calling 911 in the event an irate Navigator is wielding a clipboard).

Pens, Pencils, Highlighters - Enough said.

I keep all of the above items in a special container, ready to grab whenever a rally calls. These items will help you have more fun, and may provide the winning edge from time to time. —Harvey LeCato



Rallymaster Harvey LeCato instructs participants at last year's Sounds of Silence Rally.

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This is where you want to be September 6-13, 2008!

Join us Sept. 6-13, 2008 as we drive the scenic byways from Denver, CO to Jackson, WY down to Salt Lake City, UT, and then over to Grand Junction, CO. Arrive in Lander, WY on Saturday; Sunday and Monday enjoy Jackson, WY and see the sights in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks; Tuesday and Wednesday explore Salt Lake City, UT or spend time at the Miller Motorsports Park; **Wednesday evening, September 10, we'll attend a reception at Ken Garff Mercedes-Benz, 575 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, UT from 6-8 p.m.**, where wine, beer, and snacks will be provided; Thursday and Friday see the sights in Grand Junction and visit the Gateway Canyons Automobile Museum; Saturday head for home after visiting the wineries on the western slope of Colorado. The anticipated registration fee is \$15 per person per day. Commemorative embroidered polo shirts will be available for purchase. You are responsible for the cost of all your meals, hotel rooms, and the events that you choose to attend, for example, the **Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the Miller Motorsports Park, Gateway Canyons Automobile Museum, and more.** *The tour is limited to 25 cars.* The detailed itinerary will be available by the end of May and will be published on our website at www.milehighmbca.org. If you need a working copy before then or if you want to register, contact Reiner Haubold at 303-986-5035 or email reinbold1@comcast.net. **Mark your calendar now!**

September 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						6 Denver, CO to Lander, WY 
7 Lander, WY to Jackson, WY	8 Jackson, WY	9 Jackson, WY to Salt Lake City, UT	10 Salt Lake City, UT 	11 Salt Lake City, UT to Grand Junction, CO	12 Grand Junction, CO 	13 Drive home 



StarFest 2008 September 26th—October 1, 2008

This is *your* opportunity to show your beautiful Mercedes-Benz in the Concours d'Elegance, to improve your driving skills in the schools and track events, and build friendships with other enthusiasts. **Registration is now open** at www.mbca.org/StarFest2008 or you may contact StarFest Registrar, Sue Morrison, at 330-673-7885 (Eastern Time Zone) or Slm2teach@aol.com for a Registration Packet.

PPS Presents MasterDrive Training Day
Friday, May 16, 2008—8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
7125 E. Woodmen Road, Colorado Springs, CO
 (SW corner of Woodmen and Marksheffel)

Ronn Langford, founder of MasterDrive, has graciously offered specialized, experienced driver training for Mercedes-Benz Club members on Friday, May 16, 2008. The day will include about an hour of classroom teaching, plus about seven hours of driving. **Cost is \$185 per driver, includes all training, soft drinks and lunch.**

Registration information is available in the March/April issue of The STAR. **Contact: Julie Nelson, 719-634-7522 or ottobahn2@netzero.com for information, participation requirements, and directions.**

PPS Concours Judging Seminar
Sunday, April 13, 2008 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Mercedes-Benz of C. Springs— 430 Automotive Dr.

The first Pikes Peak Section Concours Car Judging Seminar will be held on **Sunday, 13 April** at Mercedes-Benz of Colorado Springs in their spacious and state-of-the-art facility. Pete Lesler, current MBCA President and renowned MBCA National Concours Judge, will conduct this training. The session will run from 10 am to 4 pm; **cost is \$10 per person, payable in advance or at the dealership.** This event is open to all MBCA members and their guests. The morning seminar will consist of classroom instruction. Box lunches and beverages will be provided for attendees. After lunch, we'll spend the afternoon performing hands-on examination and judging of volunteers' cars. Space is limited — **contact Judy at 719-576-9737 for more info.**



The Back Lot

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FOR SALE: 17x8" 5-spoke Miglia wheels
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FOR SALE: 1959 190 4door sedan. Rust free, 4 speed tran. Silver with grey cloth interior. Great car to finish restoration. **Runs well. \$6,995 obo.**
Call Pete @ 719.599-7100

FOR SALE: 1976 280 SL. 76,000 miles. Blue/tan interior. Comes with hard top and soft top, but needs new soft top. Trunk lid faded. **For more information and to discuss price, Call Jack Swisher at 970.468.6361**

FOR SALE: 1972 250C. Classic tan/beige color with red interior, 71,600 miles, A/C, four extra tires, three extra hubcaps, garaged and well maintained, looks and runs GREAT, **\$6,000.**
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FOR SALE: AMG GRILL For ML 320, 430, 350, or 500
From 1998 to New Model. Identical to standard grill but horizontal bars are screws. **\$40.** Also, headlight assemblies for 1999 ML 320 – Part #A1638200561. **Make Offer.**
Call Ralph Ratcliff 303.777.4543

FOR SALE: 300E, 1993 very rare Sportline model, blue, gray leather, 49K mi, always garaged/covered and maintained in mint original condition, Mobil 1, perfect for StarFest concours and driving events, **\$15,000.** Martin Frith, 7676 Newport Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93117; **805/968-3065; maf968@aol.com**

FOR SALE: 1979SLC
Brown w/saddle leather interior. 57k original miles. Excellent condition inside and out. Garaged, summer driver. Purchased new at Murray Motors. 2nd owner since '92. All options, including sunroof.
\$15,000 obo. Todd Kelske 970.390.0070 or: toddmbenz@msn.com



FOR SALE: 1991-2002 SL-Class Hardtops Charcoal, Silver, White, or Black. All in pristine condition! Will deliver to you if you are within 100 miles of us. Over 100 miles will be shipped at purchaser's expense. Call for pricing / questions. **Tony Cota 303-679-7908 or tonycota@murraymotors.com**

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PARTING OUT. . . 1979 300TD wagon. Lots of good parts — doors, bumpers & more! Front doors forward will fit any 123 chassis car. **Richard Thorpe. H) 303-547-5103 C) 303-778.1191 or email pthorpe660@msn.com**

FOR SALE: PARTS BOOK FOR 300 SEL 6.3. Contact Randy Black 303.841.2978 /or email zema@juno.com.

FOR SALE: 1979 450 SEL 4.5 l-o-n-g wheelbase. Power train sound (torque converter etc 12K ago). 217K. Rusted hood, rocker panels. Used weekly 1994-2003. 3 Local owners. **\$5K obo.** Documented repairs & more info: **Tom, 303.425.9293 DocTOC@BestResultsPlus.com**

FOR SALE: 2004 ML black all season mats and black rear cargo tray with divider for **\$150.** In excellent condition. **Call 303.738.3108.**

FOR SALE: *STAR MAGAZINE***.** Issues from 1988 thru current printing. Also many National Geographic Magazines. **Call Russ Z—303-985-4049 or email mrrhz@aol.com**

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Classified Advertising in *The Constellation*

Members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. may advertise in *The Constellation* to buy, sell, or trade Mercedes-Benz automobiles and related items at no charge, provided no commercial venture is involved. Ads may include a photo. Copy for the classified advertising must be received in writing by the 10th of the month prior to the month of issue. Ads will be published one time. To re-run, the ad must be resubmitted. **Current membership number must be included for free ads.**
LET US KNOW IF YOUR ITEM SELLS—MAKE ROOM FOR ADS FOR OTHER MEMBERS.

Non-member and commercial venture advertising will be published at the rate of \$10.00 for 3 lines per issue, plus \$10.00 for a picture. Advertising in this category may run one, two or three times as requested and paid for in advance by the advertiser. Copy for the ads must be received by the 10th of the month prior to the month of issue and must be paid in advance, payable to Mile High-MBCA.

Mail ads to: Deborah Hokanson, 1015 S. Newland St., Lakewood, CO 80226
or Email to: dhokan@comcast.net

The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.

EVENT RESERVATION FORM

I/We want to attend

- NEW MEMBER PARTY # Attending _____ (No Charge for new members)**
April 19, 2007 4:30 pm Home of Randy & Phyllis Williams—4:30 pm
Registration Deadline—April 16th
- C TO SHINING C TECH SESSION EVENT # Attending _____ @ \$10.00 per person = \$ _____**
May 3, 2008 Mercedes-Benz of Westminster—3:30 pm
- HARVEY'S SPRING RALLEY # Attending _____ @ \$15.00 per CAR = \$ _____**
May 18, 2008 Start Time and Location TBA
- DETAILER'S PARADISE INTERIOR TECH SESSION AND OPEN HOUSE**
Attending _____ @ \$5.00 per person = \$ _____
May 31, 2008 Detailer's Paradise, 10:30 a.m., 1745 S. Broadway

Name(s) _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ CELL Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send check for total due for all event(s) made payable to Mile-High Section MBCA and completed form to:
Max Townsend, 6088 E. Otero Drive, Centennial, Colorado 80112-3043

Calendar of Events ALL EVENTS ARE MILE-HIGH SECTION EVENTS UNLESS NOTED AS PPS

- Apr.** **3rd** — Board Meeting at the Molly Brown Summer Home — 6:30 pm — Jay
16th— Monthly Informal Social—Patsy's Italian Restaurant 3651 Navajo St., 6:30 pm — Jay
13th — PPS Concours Judging Seminar, MB of Colo. Springs — Judy Bennett—719-576-9737
26th — New Member Party — 4:30 pm Randy Williams—303-799-4806
- May** **1st**— Board Member Meeting at the Hokanson's 7:00 pm — Jay
3rd — C to Shining C Event—Tech Session at MB of Westminster, 3:30 pm Ryan- 720.308.1931
16th— PPS Masterdrive—8:00 am-4:30 pm — Julie Nelson — 719-634-7522
18th— Spring Rally—Harvey LeCato
21st — Monthly Informal Social, Café de France, 7301 S. Santa Fe. Dr., 6:30 p.m.—Jay
31st — Interior Detailing & Open House—Detailer's Paradise, 1745 S. Broadway, 10:30 a.m.- Jay
- June** **5th** — Board Member Meeting at the Hokansons 7:00 pm — Jay
8th — 25th Annual Exotic Car Show & Concours d'Elegance benefiting CP of Colo
Arapahoe Community College - Harvey LeCato, 719-302-0291 or Jay Hokanson
18th— Monthly informal Social — Back to The Golden Europe—6:30 pm — Jay!
Date TBD— 17th Annual MHS/Make-A-Wish Charity Car Show (target date in late June)

FOR THE LATEST SECTION INFO VISIT THE MILE-HIGH SECTION WEBSITE AT WWW.MILEHIGHMBCA.ORG.

HAVE YOU MOVED, CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS RECENTLY?

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Call National Headquarters toll-free at 1-800-637-2360 to update your listing, or for assistance.