



The Constellation

Newsletter of the Mile-High Section • Mercedes-Benz Club of America

OCTOBER 2011

OVER 500 COPIES DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY IN COLORADO, WYOMING, AND UTAH

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OCTOBER SATURDAY DRIVE—OCTOBER 15, 2011

Depart 10:30 a.m.—Starbucks
13640 Orchard Parkway, Westminster, CO 80023



Historic Ft. Lancaster in Ft. Lupton

Join the Mile-High Section for a drive back in time on October 15th. We'll be going all the way back to 1837, which is even before the first Mercedes rolled out of the carriage shop. We will start our journey at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, October 15th when we depart from our meeting point at Starbucks. Arrive earlier if you would like to have breakfast or coffee at Starbucks. (See directions below.)

We'll take a scenic drive, arriving at Fort Lancaster in the Fort Lupton area about 11:30 a.m. Members of the South Platte Historical Society will give us a tour of the restored fort, the 1860's Donaldson house and the 1875 Independence Schoolhouse, and of course the visitor center and gift shop. Please note that the final 800 feet of our drive is on a gravel drive into the fort area. After a 60-90 minute tour, the group will adjourn for lunch at the Wholly Stromboli restaurant in Fort Lupton. Fort Lancaster (Lupton) had its beginning in late 1836 as a log shelter for its builder, Lancaster Platt Lupton and his Mexican laborers. The site chosen was approximately seven miles south of another fur trading fort called Fort Vasquez. As this period was an active one for fort building and fur trading, Fort Lupton eventually found itself on the southern end of four forts that were built on the South Platte River, north of Denver. They were all situated along the old 425 mile long north-south trade route called the Trappers' Trail. A permanent adobe structure then referred to as Fort Lancaster was not begun until mid April 1837. Adobe bricks could not be "cured" in very cold weather and approximately 34,000 were needed to build the post!

Cost of the event is a \$5 donation per person with the funds collected being donated to the South Platt Valley Historical Society who are graciously providing us with the group tour. Lunch is on your own. Registration Deadline is October 13th so we have an event head count. Please indicate if you plan to have lunch at the restaurant after the tour. **For more information contact Jay Hokanson at 303-935-8270 or jhokanso@comcast.net.**

(Directions to Starbucks: From I-25, Exit 136th Avenue and travel west about ¼ mile. Turn right on Orchard Parkway. Then turn right at the first driveway and then left to Starbucks at the next available turn.) **REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 7**



**YOU AND
YOUR
BENZ**

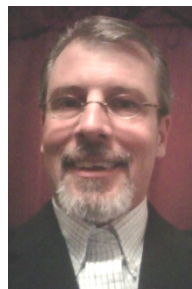
**ABOUT TOWN
OCT. MONTHLY SOCIAL**
October 19, 2011
6:30 p.m.

**Table Mountain Inn
Grill and Cantina**
1310 Washington Ave.
Golden, CO 80401
www.tablemountaininn.com
303-277-9898

Perhaps you're in the mood for Mesa Pork Ribs, Fresh Rainbow Trout, or Pinon Cherry Chicken. OR maybe you'd feel more like Fire Roasted Chili Rellenos or Chicken Enchiladas. Join us for dinner in the beautiful Table Mountain Inn in Golden. Oh, and save room for a Chocolate Taco or Cinnamon Fried Ice Cream.

For more info contact Patt Clark at 303-904-0223, or Jay Hokanson at 303-935-8270.

SEE YOU AT THE SOCIAL!



MONTHLY MEANDERINGS

*With Niels Haubold,
President, Mile-High Section*

Hello again. It is difficult to write about October and winter events when we have been setting records with our heat at the end of August and our warm September weather.

This morning, however, has brought cooler temperatures and a touch of Fall to the air. Events are slowing down but the ones that exist are not to be missed! The October 15th Saturday drive to the Ft. Lupton area promises to be great fun and will give us a chance to explore an area that I, for one, have not had much experience in. Thank you Bob Werner and Jay Hokanson for putting this together!

The annual membership meeting is being held at Café de France on Nov 5th. This is always a great evening and is where elections for Board Members and Officers occur. This is also a great time to come out and socialize and meet other members over great food and fantastic service. We will also discuss the state of our club. As directors, we depend on input and participation of the membership to insure that you are getting what you want and expect as members. The festivities begin at 5:00 with cocktails — see you there!

It also is not too early to mention the Holiday Party at Mt. Vernon Country Club on December 10th. The atmosphere and food are top notch, and we will have dancing and prizes!! Please remember that we donate toys to F.A.C.E.S. every year and we hope everyone will bring lots of new, unwrapped toys to donate to this fabulous cause.

Start thinking about mounting up the winter tires and getting out. Before you know it we will be Holiday shopping and making plans for the New Year! One thing that is for certain, time marches on. I hope to see you at an event soon!

— Niels Haubold

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

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Vice President:
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Max Townsend....303.770.1128..... diandmaxt@aol.com

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The Constellation

Newsletter of the Mile-High Section, Inc., Mercedes-Benz Club America, Inc.
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

- ◆ **Ron Bernard**
- ◆ **Charles Edwards**
- ◆ **Jacqueline & Christian Erdman**
- ◆ **Debbie Heisler**
- ◆ **Gloria Martinez**
- ◆ **Robert Matthews**
- ◆ **John McInroy**
- ◆ **Chris Olsen**
- ◆ **Ron Shuster**



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR NEXT EVENT!

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

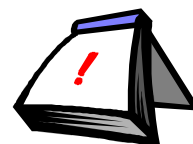
If you have not received your New Member Packet, or if you have questions about your membership, please contact MHS Membership Chair Laura Lass by phone at 303-776-8276 or by email at laurawlass@gmail.com.



2011 MHS Annual Members Meeting—November 5, 2011, 5:00 p.m. Café de France, 7301 S. Santa Fe Dr., #180, Littleton, CO 80120

The Mile-High Section will hold its annual Members Meeting and election of new and returning members to the MHS Board of Directors November 5th at Café de France, 7301 S. Santa Fe Dr., #180, Littleton, CO 80120. Attire is casual. Cocktails start at 5:00 PM with a cash bar followed by dinner from their extensive menu. **Reservations for the dinner meeting are required and must be received by November 1st.** There is no cost to attend. The only cost is your cost for your meal and beverages. The agenda for the Member Meeting will include these and additional topics:

- *Highlights of the past year*
- *Highlights of the 2012 schedule*
- *Discussion of 2011 recommendations and policies from MBCA*
- *Discussion regarding transition to email delivery of monthly newsletter to members*
- *Soliciting suggestions from members on possible 2012 events*
- *Suggestions from members on what changes they would like to see in the MHS*



We encourage all MHS members to come and provide input for the items on the agenda. If an MHS member would like to add an additional item for discussion at the meeting, please send a short message by November 1, 2011 to Niels Haubold detailing the item so that it can be considered for inclusion in the agenda.

Following the discussion and dinner, the MHS will conduct elections of members to the Board of Directors. Watch the November issue of the Constellation for a list of candidates. The only requirement to run for a Board member position is that the candidates must be current members in good standing with MBCA and MHS. The same is required to vote in the election. Board members serve a two year term with half of the Board up for election each year ensuring that there is not a 100% turnover in the Board in any given year. **The following Board members are up for re-election in 2011:**

Ryan Bunn

Reiner Haubold

Randy Williams

Mike Redel

Niels Haubold

Bill Schuffenhauer (Appointed for one year and, if continuing, should be affirmed by the general membership for another two years).

The Section would like to have a couple of new Board members each year to bring fresh ideas to the Board. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors or would like to know more about being a Board member, contact MHS President Niels Haubold at 303-949-7673 or via email at clavos21@hotmail.com.

Display your Mercedes Indoors at The Forney Museum of Transportation Nov. 1, 2011—Jan. 31, 2012

The Forney Museum of transportation is scheduling a special three month long indoor show just for Mercedes vehicles in the center of their Museum from November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. They have many great cars signed up from our club but they have space for a dozen more vehicles. If you have one of the following vehicles, especially if you own a Ponton, Finback or vehicles listed in Bold, they would really like to hear from you.

1946-1955 W136 170-Series

1953-63 W198 300SL
1957-62 W189 300d "Adenauer"
1959-65 W121 190-Series Sedans
1961-68 W110 190/200/230-Series
1963-81 W100 600-Series
1966-72 W109 280/300-Series
1968-76 W114 & W115-Series
1978-80 W116 280/300 Series
1983-85 W201 190-Series Sedans

1951-55 W187 220-Series

1955-58 W188 300-Series
1957-62 W120 180-Series Sedans
1960-71 W111 220/250/280SE-Series
1962-68 W112 300SE/SEL-Series
1965-72 W108 250/280-Series
1968-1972 300SEL 6.3
1976-85 W123 230/240/250/280/300-Series
1981-85 W126 300/380/500 Series



There is no cost to display your Mercedes, and you get a warm, indoor place for your Mercedes for 3 months this winter. Contact Christof at the Forney at 303-297-1113, or stop by and see where your Mercedes will be displayed.

Thinking About a New Benz? Think About European Delivery!

It is not often one can say that an experience exceeded all expectations but this was one of those times. If you ever have the opportunity to do this, I would recommend it. — MHS Member Mike Redel

After being in the Mercedes Benz Club for almost 10 years my wife Karen and I decided to purchase an E350 Mercedes. The driving force was a near miss with Karen dozing off at the wheel while driving home one night. God was looking out for us because she went off the highway in a clear area and was able to recover with only the loss of the passenger side mirror. This event made the optional lane assist and distronic cruise control required options on our new car. So - decision time. I decided to visit Mercedes Benz Westminster and talk about the possibilities.



Fellow Club member Max Townsend mentioned the idea of getting the car via European delivery as a possibility. I met with Ryan Vanyi at MB Westminster. He explained that each dealer had only so many European delivery slots allocated to them each year. We test drove an E 350 and knew it was the vehicle we wanted.

The folks at MB Westminster helped make the order process straight forward, and a very enjoyable experience. Mercedes has the European Delivery process down to a fine art. The process works like this. You build your car with the options you want. You end up with the list price, and then subtract 7% off the total and this is the final vehicle cost. After submitting your order as a European Delivery you contact the MB Eu-

ropean Delivery department and working with them, confirm your delivery date, schedule your air travel and first nights in Germany. They also have optional road trip tours they can set up for you. For this year Mercedes arranged 2 for 1 airfare and 1 night at a selected hotel as part of the package. They also supply taxi vouchers from airport to hotel and from hotel to the factory at Sindelfingen. Mercedes supplies the required car insurance for up to 15 days in Europe. At the end Mercedes has several drop off locations in Europe, you call, and make appointment to drop off the car and you are done. Your car then ships back to your dealer and is delivered about 4 or 5 weeks later.

On delivery day, we arrived at the plant in Sindelfingen and checked in at the delivery center. They took care of our luggage and made life as good as possible. We were given a tour of the plant which is just an awesome experience. The plant has about 28,000 employees on 3 shifts. The cars are 98% assembled by robotics. After seeing how the cars are built you get a true understanding of the quality in a Mercedes Benz.

After the tour, we arrived at the time of delivery. Our assigned Mercedes technician, Norbert, guided us through all the features and functions of the vehicle and made sure we were ready for our adventure. They loaded our luggage and bid us good-bye.

The car exceeded all of our expectations. Our navigation system was programmed for Europe and was a god send. European roads are not marked like U. S. roads. This probably saved our marriage, as we have had some not so great family discussions on Karen's map reading ability over the years. In some cases what the GPS called a road looked like an alley to me. I hate to admit it but I had purchased maps of the area and usually could not figure where we were at either. The operation of the lane assist and distronic cruise control met all advertised claims; the handling and performance are amazing.

WANT TO ASK AN EXPERT ABOUT YOUR BENZ?



The MBCA Technical Committee stands ready to contribute their vast experience and resources to help you with your Mercedes-Benz. Go to www.mbca.org and click on *Tech Talk!* MBCA members can submit a technical question online to the entire MBCA community. Here you will find technical articles submitted to the Star Magazine from our club technical experts, **PLUS you can have your questions answered by George Murphy, Pierre Hedary, Jonathan Hodgman, and other specialists.** This is just one of the many benefits for MBCA members!



Have You been Receiving MHS Email Blasts?

Due to Rising Costs Some Issues of The Constellation Will Soon Be Delivered by Email Only

Over the past few months your Mile-High Section has sent out a few short **Email Blast** messages to our members highlighting important updates to events and last minute event information. We can reach about 85% of our members this way but sadly **15% of our members do not have a valid email address on file with MBCA**. If you have not received an email blast from us, this means that we do not have your email address.

In the next few months, due to high printing and mailing costs, some issues of the Constellation will **ONLY** be sent via email. If we don't have your email address, you will not receive an issue sent directly to you. Keep in mind **you can always find current and past issues of the Constellation on our website at www.milehighmbca.org** Your email version of the Constellation will be in color, which is something we cannot do with the paper version.

Please add or update your email address with MBCA or you can send an email to constellation@comcast.net with your MBCA member number (found on your membership card or on the Constellation address label) and we will see that the mailing list is updated. **Email issues and Email blasts come from the constellation@comcast.net email address so be sure to add us as a safe email source in your email program.** *For the time being you will continue to find a printed version of the Constellation in your mailbox at least every other month.*

THE HAPPY CAR COLUMN By Niels Haubold

This Month: Keeping Up with the Jonses

I have the pleasure of working at a dealership that sells customers the cars that they want. This position has really opened my eyes to the world of aftermarket parts and accessories, and it really is possible to add modern accessories to make your older car more with it.



Back up cameras are invaluable as a safety item, make it a snap to hook up a trailer if you tow, and make parking much easier. These can be added to any car without any intrusion into the car's electronics with a wide variety of monitor choices. The most popular and least expensive have the image appear in the rearview mirror!

I don't know how we used to get around in strange cities without navigation, but it sure is a breeze with it. Aftermarket navigation has advantages over factory systems when you think about it. If you keep a car for a long time, your factory navigation unit will be hugely expensive, if not impossible to upgrade when it becomes outdated. The portable units are very "user friendly", come in a variety of sizes and configurations, and you can take it with you and use them in a rental car!

Heated seats. Face it, once you've been in a car with them in the winter, you can't live without them. They are readily available for almost any car, do not intrude on the car's electronics, and are relatively inexpensive to have installed.

The aftermarket is endless, and it does not take a ton of money to make any car exactly the car you want. From sunroofs to custom multi-color interiors, you can have it all.

Happy Cars = Happy Drivers



Bringing Generations Together

A Special Thanks from Bessie's Hope to the Mile-High Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

And to the Briarwood Inn in Golden, Beverage Distributors Co. LLC., Trinity Fine Wines, Carrabas, and Valley Motors.

A special thanks to MHS member Jim Beetham and his "A Better Car Wash" in Golden for hosting free washes for MHS members displaying their cars at the show!

Registrations for display	\$410.00
Corks for a Cause	\$320.00
People's Choice Votes	\$112.00
Total -	\$842.00

On behalf of Bessie's Hope, I want to thank all of you for your participation in the Father's Day Car Show event and all of the money that was donated for our cause. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Lou Rogers, Bessie's Hope Board Member
lou.rogers@comcast.net*



The Back Lot

Sales and Services for MBCA Members by MBCA Members



**FOR SALE:
4 Excellent Zenith
wire wheels and tires
for**

Mercedes Benz. The wheels were used on my 1964 230SL (W113) and should fit any Mercedes with a similar bolt pattern. They present very well, though there are

minor signs of use and age. You get adaptors; knock on tool and everything you need to mount these on your Benz. The tires are Michelin XZX 185 SR 14 with 1/4inch of tread and little or no cracking. They have been mounted and balanced. Less than 1000 miles. **Wheels and tires can be purchased separately or together.** To make an offer contact **Richard Gordon – 303-756-7427 or RichardNGordon@comcast.net.** 7/11

**FOR SALE PRISTINE
1992 500SEL 89,000
LOW MILES IMPRES-
SIVE!!** One owner car in Brilliant White / Tan leather. This was a special order car with Burl walnut interior trim and additional chrome upgrades. **\$8950 Call Lance for more information and to see the car. 303-589-9000** 9/11



FOR SALE: One tire, size 245/40R17 W/UNI-T Fuzion ZR1. This tire only has 125 miles on it, paid \$167.00 asking \$110.00. **Contact John at 303-469-5798 or cell 303-941-0289. E-mail jnord1146@comcast.net.** 9/11

FOR SALE: Four 18" rims for 07 or newer S-Class – tire pressure sensors included (ideal for changeover for winter snow tires) \$400 for all 4. Can e-mail photo's contact **Don Vollmer 303-885-5741 or by email at oxyvollmer@comcast.net** 10/11

WANTED: Still looking for a used engine for a California spec 1983 240-D (with 4-speed manual transmission) we've owned since it was new. As an alternative, I'm also looking for a complete car with a good engine that we can buy and take the engine from. **Jeff Hart, (c) 303-907-4664, jeffshart@comcast.net** 10/11

FOR SALE: (1) set of Mercedes winter floor mats gray color \$50.00. (1) Mercedes Trunk Cargo Organizer part # BQ 674 0026 black color \$ 75.00. Fits C-Class sedan 2001 thru 2007 both items in good condition. **Contact Doug 303 386-2749 or email dbxtrm@comcast.net.** 9/11



FOR SALE: 1979 Mercedes Benz 450 SL. 98,500 miles. **\$13,950.** One owner for the past 23 years. Creme with saddle interior. Comfortable new leather seats, hardtop, brown soft top, chrome wheels, new sheepskin seat covers. Shown at the

Annual Exotic Sports Car Show and Concours d'elegance. This car is very clean and beautifully maintained. A real joy to drive. **Contact Anne at ahautzinger@comcast.net or 303-388-7066.** 7/11

FOR SALE: MERCEDES RIMS. Five 16" Mercedes steel rims, with one good condition Firestone LT 225/75/R16 ATX Radial M/S tire. \$50 each, or \$200 for the set of 5. I live in Evergreen and will deliver to the Denver area N/C. **Contact Tom at tjspooner@g.com or 303.885.1651.** 8/11



The email address for *The Constellation* is constellation@comcast.net

**GET MORE MILEAGE OUT OF YOUR AD -PLACE A COMPANION AD
IN THE STAR.**

Go to www.mbc.org and click on "Classified Ads" for details, instructions, and forms.

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.

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

Mail ads to: Deborah Hokanson, PO Box 27825, Denver, CO 80227-7825
or Email to: constellation@comcast.net

EVENT RESERVATION FORM /INSTRUCTIONS

The treasurer will no longer count anyone in an event until he receives a check (if there is a cost) for that event.
 Your name will be put on the roster, but you will not have a reserved spot until the check is received.
 If you will not have time to mail the form before an event registration deadline, contact the event coordinator listed.

- OCTOBER SATURDAY DRIVE— October 15, 2011 **Must Register by Oct. 13, 2011**** Jay Hokanson—303-935-8270
 # Attending the drive _____ @ \$5.00 per person = \$ _____ # Attending Lunch _____ (on your own)
- ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING November 5, 2011 _____pm **Must Register by November 1, 2011****
 # Attending _____ (there is no cost to attend; dinner is on your own) Jay Hokanson—303-935-8270

Name(s) _____ Total Enclosed for event(s): \$ _____
 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

Ride sharing (please check below if you'd like to share a ride in any event(s) - someone will contact you)

Event(s) _____

I would like to ride with another member I/We would be happy to have another member join me/us



**IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR
 FOR THE 2011 MHS HOLIDAY PARTY**
Saturday, December 10th. Mount Vernon Country Club
Watch the November issue of The Constellation for details!

HEALTHY BELGIAN CHOCOLATE



=
HEALTHY INCOME

Don & Mary Lou Vollmer
 303-835-2505
Mydunn1@gmail.com



Update Your Membership Profile!

The National Business Office has announced that with every email and address update received at the NBO, (either by website, phone, email or snail mail) they will send a **10% Off Coupon for one item in the Club Store**. One coupon per member will be **sent electronically** (you must provide a valid email address). Send these updates to Geni at geni@mbca.org. Having your email address helps the club save money and



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 Sun: 9am - 5pm



Expires 11-30-2011

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THE CONSTELLATION
MILE-HIGH SECTION MBCA
Jay & Deborah Hokanson, Editors
P.O. BOX 27825
DENVER, CO 80227-7825

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

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



Oct 2011 **6th** — Monthly Board Meeting
15th — October Quarterly Drive - *article page 1*
19th — October Monthly Social at Table Mountain Inn—Golden

Nov 2011 **5th**— Annual Membership Meeting— Café de France—*article page 3*
16th — Monthly Informal Social— McGrath's Fish House 14035 W. Colfax, Lakewood
24th — Happy Thanksgiving!



Dec 2011 -- No Monthly Board Meeting in December—
December 10th—Annual Holiday Party, Mt. Vernon Country Club
Watch for details in the November Constellation

No Monthly Social in December - See you at the Holiday Party!

Have You been Receiving MHS Email Blasts?

*Due to Rising Costs Some Issues of The Constellation Will Soon Be Delivered by Email Only
See the article on Page 5 for more information!*