

The Constellation



September 2005

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Second Annual Track Event at La Junta

Teenage Drivers, this is for you as well as your parents, so grab your parents and join the Mile-High Sections at the 2nd Annual La Junta Drivers Education and Open Track Event on September 23rd through the 25th at the La Junta Race Track. This exciting educational event is for all MBCA members including their children 16 and over, that have a valid Drivers License. Our experienced Instructors will demonstrate and teach you and *especially your young drivers*, Defensive Driving techniques from class room instruction, in car demonstration (your car) with the instructor driving and then with you driving, and on to laps on the La Junta Race Track – both with the instructor and then without. Learn how your car will react under emergency conditions, then learn to drive fast, safely.



With the significant numbers of Colorado's young drivers involved in avoidable accidents, the Board Members of the Mile-High Section believe that we need to provide every opportunity that we can to educate our young drivers in defensive driving techniques. Parents we need your help in doing this! The track at La Junta is ideal for this type of training allowing you and your children (or Grandchildren) to learn in a controlled environment. NOTE: Drivers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian with the authority to approve a waiver for the driver. The parent or legal guardian must be a member of the MBCA.

The event starts at the Otero Museum on Friday afternoon for those that want to come down early. That evening, a reception will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 PM in the Holiday Inn Express, our weekend headquarters.

Rooms at the Holiday Inn Express (719-384-2900) at the Group rate of \$72/night have been blocked out for this event until September 10th. Please identify that you are with the Mile-High Section of the MBCA.

The Drivers Education Event will start Saturday morning at 8:00 AM at the La Junta Raceway. Dinner will be held Saturday night at the La Junta Golf Club with the City Manager as our guest speaker. More Drivers Education, as warranted, or open track will start Sunday morning at 8:00 AM. Other events will be available for those members that do not want to participate in the Drivers Education at the track. NOTE: We are working with Kleeman USA to see if they will bring some of there great, super fast machines to the track! Everyone had a great time last year and you will have a great time in 2005 while learning a lot about your capabilities and the capabilities of your cars.

Continued on page 3



Oktoberfest Rally and BBQ



If you're up for a scenic drive along Larimer County's western foothills, join us for the Mile-High section's Oktoberfest Rally on Saturday, October 1. After the drive we'll tour a cheese importer where you can taste many of the

cheeses, tour a local microbrewery and taste those brews that look interesting, and then go to the Lass Resort (Ron and Laura Lass' home) for a BBQ. The menu will include brats, sauerkraut, potato salad, beer, wine, hamburger's and more. The event starts at the Glauser Mercedes Benz parking lot in Westminster at 10 a.m. sharp. You will receive maps before departing Glauser. It is very important to be on time because we will leave Glauser at 10:30 a.m. sharp.

A headcount for the BBQ is required so get your application in by no later than September 28. The cost is \$20 per person. Bring your camera for some great pictures of the fall colors and your appetite.

For more information, contact Max Townsend at 303-770-1128 or Laura Lass at 303-776-8276.

Reservation form on page 6

On Track with Randy

Randy Williams
President, Mile-High Section

We have had a *great* month, the 2nd Annual MHS Garage Tour was an out standing success with 60 members participating in the exciting viewing of close to 300 great vehicles at two locations, checking out an excellent machine shop and enjoying a wonderful BBQ. Our thanks and appreciation are gratefully extended to Phil Shires and Steven Tibo for sharing their wonderful collections, and to Ron and Laura Lass for sharing Ron's Machine shop and for cooking and hosting the wonderful BBQ. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** Now we're faced with the challenge of even coming close next year.



The Centrix Financial Grand Prix of Denver also was an excellent week end of racing.

You are invited to participate in the Colorado Grand Concour's d'Non-Elegance display on September 17 at the Lionshead Mall in Vail. This display will be held from 9:00 – 1:00 and you are requested to have your car there between 7:30 and 9:00am to be placed in the event. It is a non-judged event. Mercedes-Benz is a major sponsor of this event that is expected to raise more than \$120,000 for Colorado charities and communities. The Grand, founded in 1989, has raised more than \$1.7m dollars for many Colorado charities and towns. The Grand is a 1000 mile tour of the

Colorado Rockies by leading distinctive pre-1960 sports and racing cars ending in Vail with a public display of these outstanding machines. Please bring your car and participate in this great display.

Diane and Max Townsend, rally planners extraordinaire, are planning an "October Fest Rally". Sign up NOW for this fun event.

A new MHS web site is under construction and will be announced shortly. One item under consideration is the placement of The Constellation on the web every month. The Board would appreciate comments on the use and contents that you would like to see on our web site and also on the contents of the Constellation.

Selection of Board Directors is coming up shortly, please make recommendation for or volunteer to be considered for one of the five Directors positions opening up this year.

The Annual Membership Meeting is rapidly approaching and the Board is considering locations to hold the meeting. If you have a recommended location please submit it for consideration.

The Section needs a volunteer to be our Events Coordinator, any one interested please contact me at 303-799-4806 See you there!!

Randy

The Constellation

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

Mile-High Section, Inc. MBCA

Publisher

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Second Annual Track Event at La Junta

Continued from page 1

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Friday – September 23rd

Enjoy the Otero Museum with a visit back into Colorado history.

6:30 – 9:00 PM Reception at the Holiday Express

Saturday – September 24th

8:00 – 8:30 Registration at the La Junta Race Track

8:30 – 9:30 Drivers Safety instruction - Classroom

9:30 – 12:00 Avoidance maneuver & slalom instruction/training – On track

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (Provided)

12:45 – 5:30 Track Introduction – On track

6:30 Cocktails at the La Junta Golf Course Restaurant

7:00 Dinner at the La Junta Golf Course Restaurant

8:15 Presentation by Mr. Rick Klein - La Junta City Manager

Sunday – September 25th

8:00 – 8:30 Registration at the La Junta Race Track

8:30 – 12:00 Open Track – Instructors available

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (Provided)

12:45 – 5:30 Open Track – Instructors available

For information contact Randy Williams, 303-799-4806/303-

Letter from Membership Chairperson

The Club is currently planning your 2006 events. We will have education and driving events. They may not be as conveniently located as in the past. But remember the track issue affects all members of any Multi-car Club.


We have a March 11, 2006 date set tentatively for a cooking event at Panzano's. The meeting will be in the Private Wine Room of The Hotel Monaco. Elise Wiggins was voted one of the best 4 new chefs in West in 2004 by her colleagues. The Club is arranging to get special overnight rates for those that have to travel in this event. Mark your calendar for this event and make reservations early. We hope to have cost below \$50 including all tips and taxes per person.

In February, the Mile High Club will again be participating in the Children's Miracle Network Telethon. The dates will be announced when available. Afterwards we do meet for a timely decompressing time. It is great time to meet members and to help a great cause.



Do not forget our Annual Christmas Party at the Inverness Hotel and in November the Annual Meeting and elections. The Mile High Club is looking for your ideas for upcoming events.

Finally the club is working on a very special event for January or February. Keep tuned for further news.


Rick Kimmel 303-832-2456




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Skyways Adventure

The spectacular San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado will be shimmering with gold aspen leaves when the Pikes Peak Section hosts the Rocky Mountain Regional "San Juan Skyways Adventure" the weekend of 7-9 October.



There will be a backroads adventure for MLs & G-wagons that will start with a climb up the thrilling Cork-screw Gulch route over the Red Mountains and continue over 13,447 ft Hurricane Pass, where you will view the unusual turquoise colored *Lake Como*. We will continue over the 13,042 ft California Pass and lunch in Animas Forks, the best-preserved ghost town in Colorado. The adventure will continue from there as the group wishes.

There will be a second adventure for those who like their adventures on the pavement. The *San Juan Skyway* is listed as one of the top 100 scenic byways in America. This 233-mile route takes you over three high mountain passes, through aspen carpeted valleys and through a section of the Colorado desert. Early October is the perfect time to see the aspens at the peak of their color.

The driving events are scheduled for Saturday October 8. Participants need to arrive at the hotel on Friday evening October 7, to participate in the event. The Box Canyon Lodge & Hot springs in Ouray, Colorado is the home base for the event (www.boxcanyonouray.com). Room rates are set at \$70+ per night. To make your reservations, contact the lodge at 800-327-5080. Be sure to tell them that you are part of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to get the discounted rate. Rooms are being held for the club, but this time of year, their cancellation policy is one month. There will be a hospitality room, hosted by the Pikes Peak Section, in the Lodge.

The weekend events include the opportunity to participate in Ouray's annual ColorFest (formerly Oktoberfest) on Saturday evening. For additional information, please contact Tom Croak at 719-594-4255 or drtstar@mac.com.

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FYI If you ever wish to host an event and you hold it at a hotel or restaurant, please be sure to add 25.5% to 26% for taxes and gratuity. Hotels almost always add 18% for gratuities and 7.5% or more for taxes.

Also, don't forget any room fees and divide them up with the estimated number of participants. Keep in mind that we have board members who can help you with this type of information. Don't be afraid to host an event. It is rewarding and a lot of fun. Thanks, *Jerry.*

Thoughts & Pundering

He often broke into song

because

He couldn't find the key

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Tour Magnifique!! This year's garage tour was a mega hit with the club. A record 60 people joined us for a day of viewing marvelous cars, cool garages and outstanding food. Our first stop was at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Phil Shires. We can't thank them enough for their hospitality. They have by far the coolest garage around, a custom home converted into a garage to blend with the neighborhood. His collection of near perfect automobiles was a treat for the senses. I personally appreciated all of his Mercedes as well as my favorite T-Bird from the 50's.



Our second stop was a different treat because Mr. Steve Tebo has a collection of nearly 300 cars of all years, makes and models. We all perused and drooled over his collection. It is our understanding that he has a museum planned for his collection. I really want to thank him for helping to maintain the historical need for our young people to see how far we have come with the automobile, and for us older car nuts, a place where we can remember days gone by. Thank you Steve!

Our final garage was at Ron and Laura Lass's home. His garage is one for the hobbyist and tinker in all of us. He has the ability to make almost anything you can imagine. We enjoyed a BBQ that really hit the spot. With such good food and drink and great company, we had a great evening in the country. Thanks Ron and Laura, and thank all of you who came out for coming and joining us for such a great day.



Jerry K.

There were so many wonderful pictures, and so little room to include them all, look for a compilation on cd at the annual holiday party
Dale

Colorado Grand Meet us in Vail at the Lionshead Mall on September the 17th; 8am, as we support the annual Mercedes-Benz sponsored classic car rally through the Colorado Rockies! Jerry

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Reservation Form

Second Annual Track Event at La Junta

Sept 23rd-25th /La Junta Race Track, La Junta, CO

Include me/us

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MBCA# _____

Registration \$55/person(includes Reception, Saturday Dinner,
Saturday & Sunday lunch)

Number Attending _____ @\$55ea

Track Fee \$100/car _____ Sat & Sun

Track Fee \$65/car _____ Sat only or Sun. only

Added driver \$45 _____ per car/per day #days _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail completed form and check payable to Mile-High
Section-MBCA to: Max Townsend

6088 E. Otero Drive
Englewood, CO 80112-3043

Reservation Form

Oktoberfest Rally & BBQ

October 1 / 10am SHARP

Glauser Mercedes-Benz

Hwy 36 & Church Ranch, Westminster, CO

Include me/us

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

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Number Attending @ \$20 ea _____

Total \$ _____

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Track News

As many of you recently read in the Denver Post, Sutton International Motorsports (SIM) is proposing to acquire the property that the Colorado Amateur Motorsports Association (CAMA) has under contract and build a much larger track to replace Second Creek Raceway.

The Mile-High Section is a member of CAMA through our affiliation with and long time leadership of the Multi-Car Club Alliance, Inc. (MCCA). The CAMA property is directly across from the Front Range Airport and will make an excellent replacement for Second Creek. Both locations provide an exciting topography providing for a challenging track.

SIM, with access to ready cash to build the track and facilities, can assure that a replacement track and top of the line facilities will be available in a timely fashion. SIM will own the facilities, but CAMA will operate at least one of the tracks similar to the present operation of Second Creek Raceway. *Randy*

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 black & white 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.

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 black & white 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: Dale Grace, 3431 S. Pagosa Way, Aurora, CO 80013

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



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The Constellation

September 2005

Have you moved or changed phone numbers recently? Call National Headquarters toll-free at 1-800-637-2360 to update your membership listing.

Calendar of Events

Events listed in boldface are for the Mile-High Section

For National Club news and shopping, visit the newly redesigned Club website:

www.mbca.org

September	October	November
9 MHS Board meeting 7:00 p.m. (Randy Williams 303.799.4806)	1 Oktoberfest Rally & BBQ 10:00 a.m. (Max Townsend 303.770.1128)	3 MHS Board & Annual Members meeting 7:00 p.m. (Randy Williams 303.799.4806)
13 Breakfast at the Hub (Steve Dierks 719.593.9557)	7 MHS Board meeting 7:00 p.m. (Randy Williams 303.799.4806)	16 Red Lion Social 6:30 p.m. (Randy Williams 303.799.4806)
17 Annual Chile Run & Rally (Bob Martin 719.598.8384)	13 Breakfast at the Hub (Steve Dierks 719.593.9557)	
21 Red Lion Social 6:30 p.m. (Randy Williams 303.799.4806)	17 Colorado Grand @Vail 8:00 a.m. (Jerry Kappler 303.757.6025)	
24+25 2nd Annual La Junta Drivers Education Event (Randy Williams 303.799.4806) (Jerry Kappler 303.757.6025)	19 Red Lion Social 6:30 p.m. (Randy Williams 303.799.4806)	