



The Constellation

MARCH 2008

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

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AND MUCH MORE !!

March
Monthly Social
March 19th—6:30 pm
Village Tavern
100 W. Flatiron Crossing,
Broomfield

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 April Social will be held at Patsy's Inn Italian Restaurant, 3651 Navajo St., Denver. The location of the May Social will be announced soon!

**SEE YOU AT
THE SOCIAL!**



Cherry Creek Collision Multi-Tech Session

March 15, 2008 9:30 a.m.— Noon

1401 S Lipan St , Denver; 303-722-9404



The Mile-High Section and Cherry Creek Collision are hosting a 5 part seminar on March 15th at **Cherry Creek Collision's repair center at 1401 S Lipan St.** After a complimentary light breakfast, and an introduction to dent repair, courtesy of our host Steve Zinanti, CCCI will demonstrate how they take an ugly little dent out of your prized Mercedes. Once you see how the professionals do it, you can get your hands dirty and try the repair steps yourself with a hands-on exercise. If your Mercedes had a run in with some hail stones or the neighbor kid's baseball, **Press-A-Dent will be there to talk about how they perform paint-less dent removal** and answer your questions about your car's small dents.

Representatives from **Clearly Protected, an Invisible Auto Bra company** will demonstrate their product and show you how you can protect the front of your Mercedes from stone chips, bugs and other small flying objects.

Finally a representative from **American National Insurance will be there to talk about "CHROME" an insurance product designed by car buffs for car buffs.** CHROME can insure your classic, antique, hot rod, kit car or exotic vehicle for less then you might imagine. American National Insurance can also insure your newer vehicles and even your home as a package with your classic vehicle.

Don't miss this one time auto protection and repair seminar. Registration is just \$5 but the deadline to sign up is March 10th. **REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK PAGE!**

NEW MEMBER BBQ (and general good time)

April 26, 2007- 4:30 pm

All new members since Jan. 2007 are invited !!

No cost for new members

Imagine the smell of tri-tips on the grill wafting through the air on a fresh spring afternoon. You look out from the patio across the landscape dotted with pine trees and take in the fresh air. The only thing better than the guacamole dip and the wine is the laughter and company of good friends. On Saturday, April 26th, 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.



Laura's to die for brownies are always a special treat!



Jan & Laura making final preparations to serve tri-tips

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. 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*



Mile-High Section members as well as all Mercedes-Benz owners have a wealth of information available to them on how to care for and if need be, repair their Benzes. The MHS hosts a number of technical sessions each year so that our members can get an introduction into some aspect of their Mercedes or maybe get a chance to look under the hood and test drive a new Mercedes without the pressure of a salesman looking over their shoulder. The Internet offers a wealth of information from many owners, repair shops and parts dealers. MBCA, www.mbca.org offers a technical form that may answer a question about some problem or maybe just how to adjust or program something on your dash. If you have an older Mercedes, don't forget the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center. The Classic Center has a wealth of information available and can track down information on virtually any Mercedes vehicle ever built.

Admittedly it sometimes takes hours to dig through everything on the internet to find your answer but it's probably out there. A Mercedes owner has taken it upon himself to develop a custom search engine on Google just for Mercedes related searches. I've used it a couple of times and it seems to speed up finding what I'm looking for. I've even found some Internet pages that I've never seen before with some very useful information. You might give it a try at: <http://www.everythingbenz.com>

I'd like to remind our new members that the Annual New Members party is on April 26th. There is no cost for the party which is for new members that have joined since January 2007. Come join us for some great food, mingle with other new members and meet the Sections Officers and members of the Board of Directors. It's a great chance to come to an event where almost everyone there is new to the Section and is probably enjoying their first event as well.

- Jay Hokanson

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

Executive Board Officers

President:

Jay Hokanson.....303.935.8270..... jhokanso@comcast.net

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Rocky Mountain Regional Director

Steve Dierks.....1.719.593.9557 / sdierks007@cs.com
8560 Candleflower Cir., Colorado Springs, CO. 80920

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

- ◆ *Richard Neff*
- ◆ *Jeffery Frankum*
- ◆ *John Lane*
- ◆ *John and Francine Nordman*
- ◆ *Joshua Seidenberg*
- ◆ *Nick Bibich*
- ◆ *Jason Nelson*
- ◆ *Robert Crosby*
- ◆ *Tebbin Salvesen*
- ◆ *Doran Lewis*



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

Deborah Hokanson, Editor

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It's Rally Time in the Rockies

It's right around the corner --- that time of the 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.

Are You Ready to Rally ?

As they say in horse racing – It's First Call! The Mile High Section's first rally of 2008 will occur on **Sunday, May 18th**. Details of this always fun event are still just a gleam in Harvey's eye—but rest assured, this one will be unique. For now, if you're a Rally fanatic, mark that date on your calendar and plan on a mid-morning departure from somewhere in the Denver metro area, and a finish prior to 3 p.m. For those of you who might be asking "What's a Rally, and how to I do one?" -- watch for the April Constellation, where the "Secrets of Rally Success" will be revealed.



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

Cost to participate in the Rally is \$15 per car. Lunch will be "pay as you go". If you can't stand the suspense, call / Email Harvey at 719-302-0291 / mbca@comcast.net if you have questions that just can't wait. — *Harvey LeCato*



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Richard & Pat Thorpe

Mile-High Section Helps Raise \$1,537,811 for Children's Miracle Network

Participating in the 2008 Alice 105.9 Radiothon February 13-15th, members of the Mile-High Section helped raise a record \$1,537,811 for the Children's Miracle Network. Those contributions included \$360 from the Mile-High Section and moneys from our individual members.

The following members of the MHS participated:

Ron & Laura Lass, Randy & Phyllis Williams, Joanne Potter and Pat & Richard Thorpe. Thank you again to the MHS volunteers. Everyone had a great time, and participants are looking forward to the 2009 Radiothon. We encourage members who can take the time to think about joining this group. – Max Townsend (Pictures courtesy of Diane Townsend.)



MHS Members Treated to Top Notch Tech Session at AutoWeave Upholstery Jan. 26, 2008



MHS Members enjoyed seeing Ron's work. (Ron is on the left, facing the camera)

MHS members enjoyed a morning information session with Ron Nelson of Auto Weave. Ron explained how Mercedes seats and interiors are constructed and how they have changed over the years. We learned how Auto Weave goes about repairing Mercedes seats, including the proper way that will last for years and what shortcuts some repair places use that will only give you a few years of service.

Ron explained how to care for the soft tops on our Mercedes and how he goes about making repairs to a damaged top. Ron also discussed car owners purchasing interior kits and soft tops on the Internet and what to look for in a good kit. Auto Weave will even install your kit for you. **You can contact Ron at Auto Weave at 303-288-6222.**

MHS Valentine's Party 2008—Feb.16th

Laughter and Romance filled the air as 43 members of the Mile-High Section enjoyed a sumptuous buffet dinner at the Mt. Vernon Country Club as part of their yearly Valentine's soiree on February 16th. We had such a great time, it became a late night for many—who stayed for dancing and did not get home till well after midnight! Diane Townsend made the beautiful centerpieces, and this year's party included a "sweetheart raffle", in which the winners selected a gift for their sweetheart from an array of valentine themed gifts. The MHS thanks Max and Diane Townsend for hosting this LOVE-ly event!



President Jay presents a rose to Dottie Whiting



**Pikes Peak Section to Sponsor
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 dealership 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 on the particulars of car judging. Box lunches and beverages will be provided for attendees. After lunch, we'll spend the afternoon in the dealership's expansive garage bays performing hands-on examination and judging of volunteers' cars. Space is limited — contact Judy at 719-576-9737 for more info.



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 benzlvr@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

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We know you already consider your Mercedes-Benz a classic, even if it's only from the mid-1990s. Why would you trust your old friend to anyone besides the factory-trained Mercedes-Benz certified technicians at Mercedes-Benz of Westminster's state-of-the-art service center?

If the answer is price, please know we offer a reduced labor rate of \$90/hr. on all 1997 and older Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Beyond expert service, this very competitive rate includes:

- 1 year/unlimited mileage warranty on all work
- free pick-up and delivery throughout the Front Range
- 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.



MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7:30AM-6:00PM • CONVENIENT SATURDAY HOURS, 8:00AM-4:00PM
CHURCH RANCH EXIT OFF US 36, JUST 10 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN DENVER
1-800-406-8505 FOR APPOINTMENTS

**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.**

A valid driver's license and a professional safety/systems inspection on your vehicle prior to training day, including brakes, steering, and suspension is required to participate. **Please arrive at 7:30 a.m.** on Friday, May 16. We plan to start at 8:00 a.m. SHARP. MasterDrive requires a signed release/waiver from each driver. Registration information will be available in the March/April issue of The STAR. **Contact: Julie Nelson, 719-634-7522 or ottobahn2@netzero.com.**

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
SCENIC TOUR OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS
HIGHLIGHTING WYOMING AND UTAH
*Sponsored by the Mile-High Section***

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. Costs, distances, and events along the way will follow. Look for details in the next *Star* and check our website www.milehighmbca.org) for more information. You are welcome to participate in all or part of the tour. Contact Reiner Haubold at 303-986-5035 or reinbold1@comcast.net for further information. **Mark Your Calendar Now!**

SEPTEMBER 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						6
7 	8 	9	10 	11 	12 	13

25th Annual Exotic Sports Car Show and Concours d'Elegance

Benefitting Cerebral Palsy of Colorado

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2008 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. — ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Concours d'Elegance and Exotic Sports Car Show is one of the largest collections of priceless automobiles in Colorado. Nearly 400 treasured cars from early classics and collector cars to vintage race cars and current models are displayed. We expect 100 local and regional car clubs, businesses and media sponsors to draw 15,000 attendees. This is one of the Mile-High Section's favorite events. This spectacular event raised over \$96,000 last year. You'll want to be a part of this year's 25th Silver Anniversary show — the grandest show of them all with special celebratory events planned.

Watch the April Issue of The Constellation for additional information.



StarFest 2008

Hosted by the San Francisco Bay Area Section
with support from the Sacramento Section
September 26th—October 1, 2008



StarFest is the MBCA biennial National Driving Event, held in even-numbered years.
This year's event will take place at:

The Great Lawn on Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay for the Concours d'Elegance;
The Golden Gate Bridge, North Bay, Wine Country and the **Central Valley** on the Rally-Drive; and
Thunderhill Raceway Park, Willows, for the track events, workshops, etc.

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.



The Back Lot

Sales and Services for MBCA Members by MBCA Members



FOR SALE: Four Stock Wheels in nice condition, and used tires (30k miles) from a 2001 E320 AWD—\$500. Also, 4 like new wheels from a 2006 S500—\$600.
Call 719.599.8834.

FOR SALE: 1964 220S. Pearl White with red leather interior. 65k original miles. All literature. Always garaged. Only two owners. **\$15,000. Molly Myer 303.698.9695**

FOR SALE: 1971 280SE Sedan. Cream, black leather interior. 97,000 miles. Great looking car. AC, PS, PW, Becker Europa. 2nd Owner. Many new parts. MBCA member. Call or e-mail for photos. **\$5,000 obo. Brian 303-882-0202 or sanchez_brian@hotmail.com**

FOR SALE: 17x8" 5-spoke Miglia wheels
Like New! With 235/45 HR 17 MS Dunlop Winter Sports for 01 E430. Only 5,000 miles total. **\$900; \$1300 new.**
Lyn 970.949.4436.

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: 1986 300SL. Red w/grey interior. 6-cyl, Euro model, both tops, new tires. Includes new radiator in box. Runs, drives great. Ready for summer fun.
Brian Madinger 303.840.0939
Or email brian@optimumrelationships.com

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.**
Call Chet @ 303-909-6492

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: 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: toddbenz@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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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 Doc-TOC@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

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

- TECH SESSION CHERRY CREEK COLLISION # Attending ____ @ \$5.00 person = \$ _____**
March 15, 2008, 9:30 am Cherry Creek Collision, 1401 S. Lipan St., Denver
Registration Deadline—March 10th
- NEW MEMBER PARTY # Attending _____ (No Charge for new members)**
April 26, 2007 4:30 pm Home of Randy & Phyllis Williams—4:30 pm
Registration Deadline—April 23rd

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

Mar. 1st— SPECIAL Board Member Meeting at Randy and Phyllis Williams' — 5:00 pm —Jay
15th — Multi-Tech Session at Cherry Creek Collision—9:30 am—Jay
19th — Monthly Informal Social—Village Tavern, 100 W. Flatiron Crossing, Broomfield—Jay
Date TBD—Savor the Flavor, Aurora — Joyces Essex

Apr. 3rd — Board Meeting at the Hokanson's — 7:00 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
16th— PPS Masterdrive—8:00 am-4:30 pm — Julie Nelson — 719-634-7522
17th— VMCCA Car Show Canon City
18th— Spring Rally—Harvey LeCato
21st — Monthly Informal Social, Location TBA—Jay
TBD — Tech Session

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

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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