



The Constellation

February, 2020

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

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

AUGUST 1888: BERTHA BENZ TAKES WORLD'S FIRST LONG-DISTANCE TRIP



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Mercedes-Benz Mile-High Section Potluck

March 14, 2020 @ 6:00PM

Welcome Potluck



Letter From The President

Stan Rios

President, Mile-High Section



February – ‘All About The Benz

I hope everyone’s year is off to a great start. It has been busy trying to get events organized for our section. However, it is all coming together.

On February 8th, we have the Brown Palace private tour along with lunch at La Loma Mexican Restaurant. We will have lunch first then the private tour of the Brown Palace.

On February 25th, we have the 5280 Restaurant Week dinner which will be at Morton’s The Steakhouse of Denver.

On March 14th, we have our Section Potluck which will be at our community clubhouse in Westminster.

Robert Unfug will be the Mile-High Section Liaison for the 37th Annual Colorado Concours D’Elegance & Exotic Sports Car Show on Sunday, June 14th, 2020.

Stan Rios

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

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For a list of all MBCA Board Members, please refer to the STAR Magazine.

The Constellation

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Mercedes-Benz Club America, Inc.

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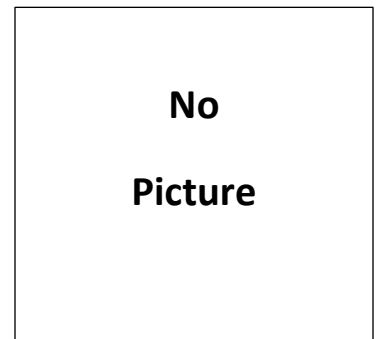
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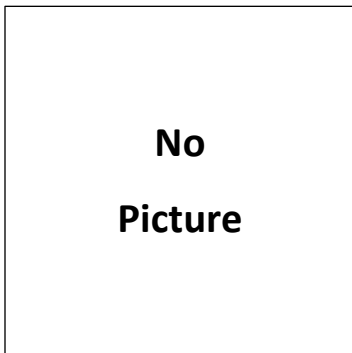
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Whitlow Wong, Board Member

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE - MBCA MILE-HIGH SECTION



Please check out our new Facebook page at [MBCA Mile-High Section](#)

MILE HIGH SECTION 2020 EVENT CALENDAR

Most Events Occur the Second Saturday of the Month

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT	CONTACT INFORMATION
FEB			
Feb 8 th	Brown Palace Tour	Karen Redel	303-637-0219, karenredel@outlook.com
Feb 25 th	52/80 Restaurant Week – Morton's The SteakHouse of Denver	Stan Rios	720-404-6362, rican6987@gmail.com
MAR			
March 14	Mercedes-Benz Club Pot Luck	Karen Rios	720-862-6675, km80031@gmail.com
APR			
Apr 2	Board Meeting - 240 Union Restaurant - Reservation Under Mercedes Benz Club	Michael Davidson	720-233-7411, mhd539@msn.com
Apr 11	Scenic Drive - Loveland To Estes Park	Whitlow Wong	303-693-9931, whitlowwong@comcast.net
MAY			
May 9 th	Man Cave Car Tour (Westminster)	Stan Rios	720-404-6362, rican6987@gmail.com, Host: Michael Burgan
May 30 th -31 st (SUN)	Vintage Car Tour @ Salida	Karen Rios	720-862-6675, km80031@gmail.com
JUN			
Jun 7 th (SUN)	Tech Session - Littleton MB	Stan Rios	Host: :Luke Drisc- Littleton Mercedes-Benz
Jun 13 th	New Members Event – Scenic Trip to Mt Evans	Mike/Karen Redel	303-637-0219, karenredel@outlook.com
Jun 14 th	Colorado Concourse D'Elegance & Exotic Sports Car Show	Michael Davidson	720-233-7411, mhd539@msn.com
JUL			
Jul 2 nd	Board Meeting-Connie's House	Michael Davison	720-233-7411, mhd539@msn.com
Jul 10 th -13 th	Regional Event-Palisade Winery/Restoration Event	Stan/Karen Rios	720-404-6362, rican6987@gmail.com
Jul 25 th	Joint Picnic-Royal Gorge Drive & Lunch	Whitlow Wong	303-693-9931, whitlowwong@comcast.net
AUG			
Aug 8 th - 9 th	Grand Lake Drive//Theater	Whitlow Wong	303-693-9931, whitlowwong@comcast.net
Aug 14 th -16 th	Gunnison Car Show Reservations@ Holiday Inn Express \$164/Night - 25 Rooms Reserved	Stan/Karen Rios	720-404-6362, rican6987@gmail.com
SEP			
Sep 10 th - 14 th	South Dakota Road Trip (Mt. Rushmore, Black Hills, Crazy Horse & More)	Karen Rios	720-862-6675, km80031@gmail.com
OCT			
Oct 10 th	Annual Dinner Meeting/ Elections – Location: TBD	Michael Davison	720-233-7411, mhd539@msn.com
Oct 24 th	Botanic Gardens - Glow In The Dark – Family Fun	Karen Redel	303-637-0219, karenredel@outlook.com
NOV			
Nov 14 th	2021 Event Planning Meeting – Location: TBD	Michael Davison	720-233-7411, mhd539@msn.com
DEC			
Dec 13 th (SUN)	Holiday Party 5:00P - Venice Ristorante & Wine Bar	Michael Davison	720-233-7411, mhd539@msn.com
Dec 19 th	Zoo Lights -Family Fun	Karen Rios	720-862-6675, km80031@gmail.com

Check monthly events, subject to change.

2020 PIKES PEAK SECTION EVENT CALENDAR

MONTH			
February 14th	Valentine's Day Dinner @ Marigold's Bakery & Café @ 5:00PM	Judy Bennett	719-576-9737 bennett912@comcast.net
March 14 th	Rosemont Museum Tour	Wendy Adams	719-268-6806 wenpen@me.com
April 19th	Car Coaching Session	Glenn Hamill	719-575-7931
May 16 th	VMCCA Car Show Caravan		
June 13-14th	Sand Dunes Movie Weekend		
July TBD	Joint Section Picnic (Mile High Section) 18 Scenic Drive		
August 15th	President's Rally		
Sept. 18-20 th	Winefest Weekend		
October 13th	Section Elections		
Nov. 14th	Fall Rally		
Dec. 6 th	Holiday Party		
Dec. 12th	Christmas Lights Tour		

AUGUST 1888: BERTHA BENZ TAKES WORLD'S FIRST LONG-DISTANCE TRIP IN AN AUTOMOBILE



- The Benz Patent Motor Car covers the 180-kilometer trip from Mannheim to Pforzheim and back without any problems
- The pioneering activity paves the way for the automobile

In August 1888, Bertha Benz drove from Mannheim to Pforzheim with her two sons in the Patent Motor Car built by her husband Carl Benz. A few days later, she returned to Mannheim. This first long-distance trip in the history of the automobile was a pioneering undertaking. For the most part, it all ran smoothly: there were only a few minor technical problems on route, which were all solved. An original Model III Patent Motor Car, identical in construction, still exists today and is the world's oldest remaining Benz automobile, which dates back to 1888.

Carl Benz was a magnificent technician. In 1886, he applied for a patent for his motor car – the world's first automobile and therefore an epoch-making innovation. However, his business acumen was not so strong. His wife Bertha bravely and enthusiastically stood by his side: she supported her husband in many ways, recognized the importance of his invention at an early stage and firmly believed that it would be a success. The only thing lacking was the definite proof that the vehicle was reliable and could also master long-distance routes.

Bertha Benz decided to go on a lengthy test drive to encourage her husband and to prove to him the capability and sustainability of his invention – albeit without telling him about it beforehand. She already had a destination for her drive in mind: Pforzheim, her place of birth.

At the beginning of August, when the school vacation began, it was time. Bertha Benz let her sons Eugen and Richard into her plan. Mother and sons carefully made their way to the factory early in the morning. They quietly pushed the vehicle out of the workshop and only started it once it was a safe distance away from the house – by turning the horizontal flywheel. As the story goes, she left a note on the kitchen table for Carl, who was still asleep, with an openly-worded message that she was on her way to Pforzheim – with not a word about the “test drive”. He later noticed that the motor car was missing and realized that his loved ones were not travelling by train.

Petrol is Available from Chemists:

Ligroin: A mixture of hydrocarbons, a colorless, flammable liquid, obtained in the fractional distillation of petroleum and used as a motor fuel and as a solvent for fats and oils in dry cleaning, etc.

Once the three had finally got the car rolling, they realized that they did not know how to get to Pforzheim. So they decided to stick to the places and roads that they knew and initially headed towards Weinheim. In Weinheim, they headed south, to Wiesloch. “Ligroin” supplies, as petrol was known at the time, was a great source of concern, as the 4.5-liter supply in the carburetor – there was no gas tank yet – was running ominously low. Ligroin was available from chemists back then. The town pharmacy in Wiesloch, which still exists today and claims to be the world’s first gas station, was able to help them. The long-distance travelers later bought more ligroin in Langenbrücken and Bruchsal during their journey.

Cooling the engine was even more of a worry than finding fuel. The engine was cooled using the evaporation of water according to the thermosiphon system. The water supply was topped up at every opportunity: at public houses, from streams or, when there was no other choice, from a ditch. There were no punctures because the rear wheels had iron rings and the front wheel was covered in solid rubber. Extra muscle power helps on hills.

From Wiesloch, the journey continued via Bruchsal and Durlach, where it headed east, out of the Rhine Valley and into the “hills”. The one-cylinder engine’s output of around 2.5 hp (1.8 kW) at 500 rpm and its two gears were certainly not enough to conquer big gradients. Bertha Benz and her sons Eugen and Richard had to get out and push again.

Their efforts going uphill were interspersed with an increased rush of adrenaline when driving downhill. The shoe brake, which was operated by hand using a lever at the side of the vehicle and acted on both rear wheels, could only slow down the 360-kilogram vehicle with the utmost effort. The brake shoes wore out quickly but even here Bertha knew what to do. On the way back, she stopped in Bauschlott and had a cobbler cover the brake shoes with leather – and thus invented the brake lining at the same time. Bertha Benz also had to use her own skills to fix any small problems, whether it was cleaning the blocked fuel line using a hat pin or insulating the worn-through ignition wire with the help of a garter.

News for Carl Benz:

We know that the long-distance travelers kept Carl Benz, who was waiting at home, up-to-date with the progress of their journey by sending several telegrams, the first of which was sent from Bruchsal. But none of the telegram messages remain.

It was not only the Patent Motor Car Model III that ran out of steam near the village of Wilferdingen with its steep hills; so did the three motorists. Two young farm hands, who were initially wary of the whole thing, finally stepped in to help. This final challenge was thus also overcome; from now on, it was quickly on to Pforzheim via Brötzingen. They reached their destination at dusk. The first leg of the adventurous journey in an automobile had been completed. A few days later, the three long-distance travelers began the return journey to Mannheim. This time, the route was shorter and headed almost in a straight line via Bauschlott, Bretten, Bruchsal, Hockenheim and Schwetzingen to Mannheim. This journey also went smoothly for the now experienced motorists.

Proof of Sustainability:

By completing the first long-distance journey in automotive history, Bertha Benz not only proved to her husband, as she planned, but also to many skeptics that the automobile had a big future ahead. She had demonstrated that the motor car was fit for purpose on this 180-kilometer journey (there and back). The rise of the later Benz & Cie. Rheinische Gasmotorenfabrik AG, Mannheim, to become the biggest automotive factory in the world would barely have been imaginable had it not been for her daringness – and that of her sons.

Incidentally, the Benz Patent Motor Car Model III was given another gear and a more effective brake following the findings of the “test drive”. It thus also became clear for the first time that testing and trying out new automobile models under difficult conditions was essential.

The Patent Motor Car:

Benz presented the Patent Motor Car, the world’s first automobile, in 1886. By 1894, 25 vehicles, with engines ranging from 1.5 to 3 hp (1.1 to 2.2 kW) had been built.

The Model I was the original Patent Motor Car. It had steel spoke wheels and other design details that allude to the cutting-edge bicycle constructions of the time.

The modified Model II was originally also a three-wheel vehicle but was then converted to a four wheeler for test purposes. The vehicle, including the Ackerman steering that was trialed in it, was another important step towards the modern automobile. There was probably only one such version.

The Model III was the first automobile to be sold in small production runs. There were various add-on parts. Customers could opt for an additional vis-à-vis seat bench and therefore choose a total of four seats or opt for a folding top. The vehicle had wooden spoke wheels. The powered rear wheels (diameter: around 125 centimeters) were ringed with steel, whilst the controllable front wheel (diameter: 80 centimeter) was covered with solid rubber. The wheelbase was around 1.58 meters and the wheel track 1.25 meters.

It was not easy for Carl Benz to market his Patent Motor Car – until the Frenchman Emile Roger from Paris set up the first sales outlet abroad. As a tag on the vehicle states, a Patent Motor Car Model III, which still exists today, was sent to England via Roger. It was probably built by Benz in 1888 and was showcased at the Isartor in Munich during the power and work machine exhibition. This vehicle is identical to the one that Bertha Benz and her sons traveled in on the world’s first long-distance automobile journey.

It is the oldest Benz Patent Motor Car still in original condition and therefore the oldest Benz automotive. The vehicle now belongs to the Science Museum in London.

TRULY A WOMAN BEFORE HER TIME!

Technical specifications of the Benz Patent Motor Car Model III:

Construction: open-top three wheeler

Engine: one-cylinder, four-stroke engine

Displacement: 1660 cm³ Output: 2.5 hp (1.8 kW) at 500 rpm

Carburetor: Benz surface carburetor

Valves: automatic intake valve, controlled exhaust valve

Cooling system: water/thermosiphon cooling system

Lubrication: drip-feed lubricator and grease cap

Ignition: electric high voltage buzzer ignition

Tank: 4.5 liters in the carburetor

Starter: turning the flywheel

Transmission Leather straps from the engine to the cone pulley, differential, 1 chain for each rear wheel

Clutch: none

Gearbox: two-speed fixed disc, 2 forward gears

Gear changes: hand lever beneath the steering crank to push the strap between the discs

Suspension

Frame: steel pipe

Front-wheel suspension: front wheel in control fork, without springs

Rear-wheel suspension: live axle, fully-elliptical springs

Steering: rack steering, steering crank in the center of the car

Hand brake: wooden shoe brake/rear tires

Footbrake: none

Lubrication: grease caps

General data

Dimensions: 2700 x 1400 x 1450 mm

Wheelbase: 1575 mm

Wheel track: rear 1250 mm

Wheels: wooden spokes, diameter, front: 800 mm, rear: 1125 mm

Tires: front: solid rubber or iron; rear: iron

Weight: 360 kg

V-max: 16 km/h

Fuel consumption: approx. 10 liters for every 100 kilometers

Innovative Cars Word Search

Find the names of popular automotive designs hidden below.

M A S U R A T I J R N F F T U H
O W Z K C G I E G P R E K C M D
V C I B O N L K R E X R Q W E S
L A K E I T T I V V B R S H R G
O D I M E H U O R E A A U X C N
V I G E C S R A N T J R X C E A
B L B P H E U T C P P I E C D T
D L U Y G G L P I V R E L J E S
N A A N A E O A Y K Y P C P S U
E C A J Y R I A V R O C S N S M
O R P K S J L H Q U A T T R O M
R A Q C E O E M O R A F L A B C
T P H E M O D E L T E Z C O D L
I E P A C U R N A U D I Y P U Z
C A G M F G E C Y O R S L L O R

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BEETLE
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5280 RESTAURANT WEEK – MORTON’S THE STEAKHOUSE OF DENVER



DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020 AT 6:30 PM

LOCATION: 1745 WAZEE STREET, DENVER, CO 80202

PRICE: \$45.00 PER PERSON – DRINKS AREN'T INCLUDED IN THE PRICE (Everyone attending this event will be paying their own food and drink bill. It is normal and customary that a suggested gratuity of 15% of the total bill be given. There is also a 7% tax. **There will be one bill per table.**)

MENU:

Starter:

Rebel Farms Mixed Green Salad with hand-torn garlic croutons, charred lemon vinaigrette
Lobster Bisque with Maine lobster and brandy
Rebel Farms Baby Gem Caesar with hand-torn garlic croutons and classic Caesar dressing

Entrée:

6oz Aspen Ridge Center-cut filet mignon with bacon and blue cheese mashed potatoes
Grilled Ora King Salmon Fillet with quinoa, heirloom tomato, and arugula pesto
Tender Belly Double-Cut pork chop with bacon and blue cheese mashed potatoes
Red Bird Farms Natural Roasted Chicken with wilted greens, lemon caper butter

Dessert:

Key Lime pie with fresh whipped cream
Double Chocolate Mousse
White chocolate-pecan bread pudding with caramel and vanilla bean ice cream

RSVP: **By February 21, 2020**, to Stan Rios via email rican6987@gmail.com

On the “Subject” line of your email, please put 5280 Restaurant Week – Morton’s The Steakhouse of Denver.

In the body of the email, please state the total number attending this event.

SPECIAL NOTE: We have a special event room called the “Mile-High Room” for this event and a guest/entrée minimum of 20. We can max out at 48 guests.

MERCEDES-BENZ MILE-HIGH SECTION POTLUCK



Since we are into 2020, we would like to get together and catch up with current members/friends and enjoy some food. Please start thinking about what you would like to bring to the potluck.

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2020

TIME 6:00 PM

LOCATION: 3323 W 96TH CIRCLE, WESTMINSTER, CO 80031

RSVP: **By March 8th, 2020,** to Stan Rios via email rican6987@gmail.com or Karen Rios via email km80031@gmail.com.

On the "Subject" line of your email, please put Mile-High Section Potluck.

In the body of the email, please state the total number attending this event and what you will be bringing.

I'm looking forward to everyone attending.

Scenic Drive - Loveland To Estes Park



DATE: April 11, 2020

ITINERARY: 9:30 AM: Meet at Starbucks
1535 Rocky Mountain Ave., Loveland, CO
970-461-7728

10 AM: Drive to *Hanger Restaurant* (1480 Golf Course Road) via Glen Haven and Estes Park Colorado 80517; 970-586-8146

1:30 PM Drive to *Glacier Ice Cream & Gelato*
Via Hwy 36 thru Lyons, 4760 Baseline Road
Boulder, Colorado 80303; 303-499-4760

3:00 PM Drive Home

RSVP: **By April 5, 2020,** Whitlow Wong,
whitlowwong@comcast.net Or 303-693-9931