



## 1967 Mercedes-Benz 280SE Cabriolet 'Low Grille' Factory Prototype



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### **Welcome New Members!**

We are excited to have you as part of our Section. We look forward to seeing you at any of our events.

Due to the number of new members that signed up, please see page 4.

### **Thank You, Loyal Members!**

We sincerely thank you for renewing your membership and continued support of the Mile High Section and the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

Due to the number of loyal members that renewed, please see page 4.



## President's Message – 'All About The Benz

By Stan Rios

Greetings Mile High Section Members! Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and could spend the holiday with family and friends. Last year was a tough one. Our 2021 event schedule is finalized. However, events are subject to change due to COVID restrictions and shutdowns.

We are still having monthly Virtual Happy Hour meetings via Zoom that are scheduled on the second Friday of each month. We will enjoy our first event together this year on Saturday, January 9 at 10 a.m. We will be meeting at Farland Classic Restoration. Please RSVP Michael Davison by phone at 720-233-7411 or email at [mhd539@msn.com](mailto:mhd539@msn.com) as soon as possible. We could not find a restaurant that would accept us for indoor lunch, so we are all on our own. Also, please remember to bring your mask.

I look forward to an exciting 2021, including some overnight/weekend trips, vintage tour, a car show, scenic drives and so much more. Stay tuned and please read our monthly newsletter.

I hope to see you at one of our events soon! Stay safe and healthy in the days ahead!

Stan Rios

President

Mercedes-Benz Club of America | Mile High Section

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## 1967 Mercedes-Benz 280SE Cabriolet 'Low Grille' Factory Prototype

Sold For \$220,000

Chassis No. 111025-10-000041

Engine No. 130980-10-000015

180 hp, 2,778 cc SOHC six-cylinder engine, Bosch mechanical fuel injection, four-speed manual floor-shift transmission, independent front suspension by unequal length A-arms, coils springs and sway bar, single low-pivot swing axles with trailing arms and coil springs, and four-wheel hydraulic disc brakes. Wheelbase: 108.3"

- **The factory prototype, matching numbers 'low grille' 280SE**
- **Built for the 1968 Brussels Salon, which is photo documented**
- **In private ownership since 1970, and imported to the U.S. in 1974**
- **Fully restored by marque expert Mark Passarelli from 1999–2000**

- **Factory supplied with four-speed manual transmission and features fitted luggage**

Cars built for major motor shows have always held special value for collectors, as they represent the best of the manufacturers' and coachbuilders' art, and are frequently one-off models. Rarer still are factory prototypes, which foreshadow the next generation of a particular model. Most automakers, especially Mercedes-Benz, retain these first examples for their museums, which makes the Mercedes-Benz 280 SE Cabriolet on offer today quite a remarkable find.

This cabriolet is a late variation of Mercedes-Benz's 1960s mainstay, which began with the 'Fintail' 220 sedan in 1959. A coupe followed in 1961 and a cabriolet at the Frankfurt show later that year, though neither of these had the sedan's characteristic fin. The SOHC six-cylinder engine was gradually increased in size, with the 2.8-liter being introduced for the 1968 model year. In the mid-1960s, Mercedes-Benz Chief Designer Paul Bracq had designed a lower and wider grille to replace the outdated, more upright style.

In December 1967, he ordered that these modifications be implemented on this very car, number 000041, using the fifteenth 280 engine built, number 000015. Built in 1967, its style foreshadows the penultimate generation of the 280, the 3.5-liter 'low-grille' model, which wouldn't be launched officially until the 1969 model year. This 280 SE cabriolet 'low-grille' prototype was built for the January 1968 Brussels Salon, and its history is documented by a Mercedes-Benz data build sheet and a second production sheet with specifications for Brussels.

Originally finished in red metallic with parchment leather interior, this cabriolet was also fitted from new with a four-speed floor-shift transmission. This option was not offered on later 3.5-liter cabriolets, which it otherwise resembles. The car remained in Mercedes-Benz's collection until 1970, when it was reportedly sold to one Werner Munz Backnang. It was then imported to the U.S. in 1974, first to Los Angeles and later moving to Phoenix.

Marque specialist Mark Passarelli was browsing the local newspaper classifieds in 1999 at his home north of Scottsdale and discovered the car advertised for sale. Expecting to find a 1969 model, he was puzzled by its configuration and lack of VIN on the radiator crossbeam. Passarelli began extensive investigative work and was able to identify the cabriolet precisely via the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California. Documents from an enthusiastic Classic Center employee accompany the car, confirming its identity and highlighting its origins and importance.

While the investigation was going on, and before the car's original color combination was accurately determined, Passarelli performed a fully photo-documented ground-up restoration. This cabriolet is now finished in a very handsome and period correct Middle Blue Metallic with cognac leather, and includes a lovely set of fitted luggage. Even now, the car only indicates 39,500 kilometers (24,850 miles) and features the then-new telescopic steering column, power windows, and its original Becker Europa

radio. With its superb and unique provenance, spectacular restoration, and status as one of the few Mercedes-Benz prototypes existing outside museum confines, this unique automobile is the subject of considerable interest and great desire.



***Welcome New Members!***

We are excited to have you as part of our Section. We look forward to seeing you at any of our events.

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Gary Delane         | Thomas Dougherty      |
| Connor Tieulie      | Courtney Trudeau      |
| Jonathan Szablowsky | M Karbassi            |
| Joshua Williams     | Brandon Drespling     |
| Jason Bressette     | Maria Valdez-Carrillo |
| James Andrews       | Lori Drew             |
| Richard Malone      | Doreen Near           |
| Jeffrey Springer    | Renee Konrad          |
|                     | Traycee Pinkard       |

***Thank You, Loyal Members!***

We sincerely thank you for renewing your membership and continued support of the Mile High Section | MBCA.

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| David Johnson    | Richard Call    |
| Robert Critchlow | Gari Stroh      |
| Gary Priest      | Michael Collins |
| Art Bissell      | Thomas Buchman  |
| Raoul De Chant   | Andrew Gallegos |
| James Knight     | Rita King       |

## 2021 Mile High Section Event Schedule

Events are subject to change due to COVID restrictions and shutdowns.

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT	CONTACT INFO
January			
8	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
9	Tech Session - Classic Restoration Denver	Michael Davison	720-233-7411 <a href="mailto:mhd539@msn.com">mhd539@msn.com</a>
14	Board Meeting via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
February			
12	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
20-28	5280 Restaurant Week – Location TBD	Stan & Karen Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a> 720-862-6675 <a href="mailto:km80031@gmail.com">km80031@gmail.com</a>
March			
12	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
13	Section Potluck – Location TBD	Stan & Karen Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a> 720-862-6675 <a href="mailto:km80031@gmail.com">km80031@gmail.com</a>
April			
9	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
10	Scenic Drive – Loveland to Estes Park	Whitlow Wong	720-220-1800 <a href="mailto:whitlowwong@comcast.net">whitlowwong@comcast.net</a>
15	Board Meeting via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
May			
14	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
15	The Man Cave of Westminster	Don Vollmer	303-835-2505 <a href="mailto:dmlvollmer@comcast.net">dmlvollmer@comcast.net</a>
June			
11	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
12	Early Morning Drive to Mount Evans/Brunch/New Members Event	Mike & Karen Redel	303-637-0219 <a href="mailto:mikeredel@outlook.com">mikeredel@outlook.com</a> <a href="mailto:karenredel@outlook.com">karenredel@outlook.com</a>

July			
9	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
9-12	Regional Event – Palisade Wine Tour/MB Vintage Restoration Tour	Stan & Karen Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a> 720-862-6675 <a href="mailto:km80031@gmail.com">km80031@gmail.com</a>
15	Board Meeting via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
24	Joint Section Picnic – Scenic Drive & Lunch/Ice cream social	Whitlow Wong	720-220-1800 <a href="mailto:whitlowwong@comcast.net">whitlowwong@comcast.net</a>
August			
13	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
20-22	Gunnison Car Show	Stan & Karen Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a> 720-862-6675 <a href="mailto:km80031@gmail.com">km80031@gmail.com</a>
September			
9-14	South Dakota Road Trip – Mt Rushmore, Black Hills, Crazy Horse and more	Stan & Karen Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a> 720-862-6675 <a href="mailto:km80031@gmail.com">km80031@gmail.com</a>
October			
8	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
9	Annual Elections Dinner	Michael Davison	720-233-7411 <a href="mailto:mhd539@msn.com">mhd539@msn.com</a>
14	Board Meeting via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
November			
12	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
13	2022 Section Events Planning Meeting via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>
December			
5	Annual Holiday Party	Michael Davison	720-233-7411 <a href="mailto:mhd539@msn.com">mhd539@msn.com</a>
10	Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom	Stan Rios	720-404-6362 <a href="mailto:rican6987@gmail.com">rican6987@gmail.com</a>

## Section Officers

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## Rocky Mountain Regional Director

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## The Constellation

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

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## **MBCA Mile High Tech Session**

**Saturday, January 9, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

at Farland Classic Restoration  
3800 South Kalamath Street  
Englewood, CO 80110  
303-761-1245

Bottom center on map

[www.ClassicRestoDenver.com](http://www.ClassicRestoDenver.com)

RSVP to Michael Davison

720-233-7411 or [mhd539@msn.com](mailto:mhd539@msn.com)



### **Mile High Upcoming Events**

#### **January 8, 2021**

Virtual Happy Hour via Zoom – 4:00 p.m.

Stan Rios – [rican6987@gmail.com](mailto:rican6987@gmail.com)

#### **January 9, 2021**

Tech Session – Classic Restoration Denver  
– 10:00 a.m.

Michael Davison – [mhd539@msn.com](mailto:mhd539@msn.com)

#### **January 14, 2021**

Board Meeting via Zoom – 5:30 p.m.

Stan Rios – [rican6987@gmail.com](mailto:rican6987@gmail.com)

### **Pikes Peak Upcoming Events**

#### **January 5, 2021**

Board Meeting – 5:00 p.m.

Andrew Nelson – 719-217-9481

#### **January 31, 2021**

Annual Pot Luck – 5:00 p.m.

Glenn Hamill – 719-575-7931

#### **February 2, 2021**

Board Meeting – 5:00 p.m.

Andrew Nelson – 719-217-9481

Questions? Call your Section President at 720-404-6362 or our National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360 Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MT, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MT. Or visit [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org).

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