



The Constellation

Newsletter of the Mile High Section

September 2024 mbcamilehigh.org

MBCA Mission Statement: To Elevate the Mercedes-Benz Experience Through Knowledge, Camaraderie and Exceptional Events.



President's Message – 'All About the Benz' By Whitlow Wong

On Saturday, August 17, ten of us had great fun in Greeley at Rodz and Bodz, home to Colorado's premier movie car museum.

The first of its kind in Colorado history, Rodz and Bodz has access to over 250 vehicles with a rotating exhibition. From vintage dream cars to incredible movie cars, TV show cars, unique movie memorabilia, one-of-a-kind customs, and hot rods, Rodz and Bodz delivered an astonishing experience.



Six of us enjoyed a great lunch at Olive Garden and no one went for ice cream because we were so full from lunch.



Our next event will be on Saturday, September 7 when we drive to Breckenridge to visit **Isak Heartstone**, a recyclables and scrap wood sculpture by Thomas Dambo. Isak is a 15-foot wooden troll sculpture located on the Trollstigen Trail in Breckenridge. The newly constructed trailhead is located in the southeast corner of the Stephen C. West Ice Areana parking lot, next to Illinois Gulch Trailhead.

Here are the details:

1. Meet at Woolly Mammoth Park-N-Ride, 18560 US-40, Golden at 10 am. This is a free parking lot in Jefferson County. We'll leave at 10:20 am.
2. Bathroom break at Georgetown Visitor Center, 1491 Argentine St, Georgetown. Take Exit 228 off of Interstate 70.
3. Drive to Breckenridge. On the Google Map app on your phone, enter *Isak Heartstone* for directions. You'll park at the Stephen C. West Ice Areana parking lot.
4. Lunch is at the Horseshoe Breckenridge Restaurant, 113 S Main St, Breckenridge. Take the Trolley Bus to Main & Washington or the Welcome Center Stops and walk to the restaurant (400').
5. Enjoy dessert at I Scream Gelato, 105 S Main St.
6. Take the Trolley Bus back to the parking lot.
7. Drive home either north or south via US 9.

RSVP to Whitlow Wong at whitlowwong@comcast.net by September 5.

Our **Fall Road Trip** will be held Friday – Sunday, Oct 4-6 when we drive to Steamboat Springs. Mike Redel is putting this trip together. The cost of this trip is \$25/per person for the Meet and Greet social Friday night and the box lunch on Saturday.



Basic information:

- On Friday, Oct 4, we'll meet at 9 am at Johnson's Corner, 3618 SE Frontage Rd, Johnstown (Exit 254 on I-25) in the parking lot where we'll distribute trip information. We'll leave at 9:30 am and head north on I-25, take exit 269B toward Ft. Collins onto CO-14 W (E. Mulberry St). Turn right onto N College Ave (US-287 N). Keep right onto La Porte Bypass (US-287 N) toward CO-14 W/Laramie.
- Turn left onto CO-14 W and enjoy the ride up Poudre Canyon and over Cameron Pass. It will take 3 to 3 ½ hrs to get to Walden.
- Make your way to the River Rock Café, 460 Main St, Walden by 1 pm where we'll meet for lunch.
- Get back onto CO-14 W and enjoy the beautiful scenery on this drive.

- Turn right onto US-40 and travel over Rabbit Ears Pass down into Steamboat Springs.
- Drive to the Holiday Inn, 3190 S Lincoln Ave, Steamboat Springs.
- We are going to have a Meet and Greet at Francis and Ruth Abate's home from 4:30-6:30 pm. We will serve wine, beer, soft drinks and a light snack. The address is 27426 Brandon Circle, Steamboat Springs, CO. Come and go as you please. Dinner will be on your own Friday night.
- On Saturday, Oct 5, leave the Holiday Inn lot at 8:30 am and go to Steamboat Cars & Coffee in the Transit Center Parking Lot, 1505 Lincoln Ave, Steamboat Springs. We'll display our cars, have a donut, drink some coffee and talk cars. Some will be dirty but that is to be expected.
- Leave at approximately 11 am for a drive to Steamboat Lake State Park. The route runs along the Elk River up to the lake and should be awesome. This drive takes about an hour. We will have a box lunch at the Steamboat Lake beach area. If you have not purchased the annual Colorado Parks Pass with your license plates you may have to pay the daily park entrance fee. Bring cash to pay for the \$7 day use entrance fee. The box lunch includes a sandwich, chips, a chocolate chip cookie and a soft drink. The sandwich menu is below. ***Please send your sandwich order and a check made out to MBCA Mile High Section for \$25/per person to Mike Redel at 12245 Helena Street, Brighton, CO 80603 by Sept 15, 2024.*** Bring a camp chair for comfort as there are not many tables in this area. We will leave Steamboat Lake after lunch and drive back to Steamboat Springs at your leisure. You may like to stop at The Clark Store, 54175 RCR 129, Clark, CO, 80428 on the way back.

Drunkun Onion Sandwich Menu - Sandwiches & Wraps:



- Turkey Bacon and Avocado Wrap
- Portobello with Mashed Yams, Asiago and Veggies Wrap
- Roasted Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Roast Beef and Cheddar on Baguette
- Ham and Gruyere on Baguette
- Turkey and Cheddar on Baguette
- Eggplant Caponata on Baguette
- Rotisserie Chicken with Basil Pesto and Gruyere on Baguette
- Prosciutto and Asiago with Oil and Vinegar on Baguette
- Tuna Salad on Whole Wheat

- Egg Salad on Whole Wheat
- Saturday night, Oct 5, we'll meet at 6:30 pm at Brass Kitchen & Bar, 700 Yampa St, Unit A102, Steamboat Springs for dinner. Pricing is about \$65/per person which includes wine pairings.
- Sunday, Oct 6 we'll head home unless you plan to extend your stay.

NOTE: We have reached our maximum number of participants, so registration is now closed for this event. You can reach Mike Redel at 303-515-1701 or mikeredel@outlook.com.



On November 9, at 12 noon, we are planning a **Members' Meeting** at The Wishbone Family Restaurant, 9701 Federal Blvd, Westminster. We invite all members to join us and come prepared with ideas of events

that you would like to see next year. All ideas are welcome. Please RSVP to Ron Graham by November 1 at 303-745-7578 (h), 303-601-0973 (c), or ron922grif@aol.com.

On Saturday, December 7 at 2 pm, we'll have our **Holiday Party** at the Bridgewater Grill at The Golden Hotel, 800 11th St, Golden. We have a reservation for 30. We've chosen to have this event starting at 2 pm so that we won't be out driving in the dark at night. Detailed information will be in future newsletters.



Our upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place
Sept 7	Drive to Isak Heartstone	Breckenridge
Oct 4-6	Fall Road Trip	Steamboat Springs
Nov 9	Members' Meeting	Westminster
Dec 7	Holiday Party at Bridgewater Grill	Golden

Again, I'm asking members to submit stories about how they got their first Mercedes. Please send your story to whitlowwong@comcast.net and then it will appear in the newsletter.

A very important plea ... we are looking for members to join our Board of Directors. All are invited. We are especially looking for new members to join the Board because we'd like fresh ideas. We really need your help so please consider joining the team. If you are interested or want additional information, please contact Whitlow Wong at whitlowwong@comcast.net.

Mercedes Executive Says Customers Will Eventually Accept 4 Cylinder AMG Cars

Head of Mercedes-Benz Australia believes enthusiasts will get used to the PHEV 4-cylinder AMG engines the same way the public adopted smartphones.

By [Verdad Gallardo](#) - August 9, 2024

The Transition to a New Era

The automotive world is in the midst of a significant transformation, with [Mercedes-AMG](#) leading the charge by introducing a new line of [four-cylinder](#) plug-in hybrid models. This transition marks a departure from the beloved [V8 engines](#) that have long been a hallmark of the AMG brand. While enthusiasts are skeptical, Mercedes-Benz Australia's CEO, **Jaime Cohen**, believes that consumers will eventually come to appreciate these changes. "I think it will still be a very successful vehicle," Cohen stated in a recent interview. He likened the shift to a natural evolution in technology, where acceptance may take time, but ultimately, the performance and innovation will speak for themselves.

Performance Without Personality

The new [Mercedes-AMG C 63 S](#) and [GLC 63 S](#) both feature a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine combined with an electric motor, delivering a remarkable 671 hp and 752 lb-ft of torque. These numbers represent a significant leap in performance compared to their V8 predecessors. Yet, despite these impressive stats, purists have criticized the lack of character in the new powertrain. Cohen, however, is unfazed by the backlash, emphasizing that performance remains at the core of AMG's identity. "It's about performance. It would be a problem if we could not deliver the same performance," he explained, underscoring that the essence of AMG has not been compromised.

A Parallel to the Past?

Cohen's confidence in the new AMG models is rooted in historical precedent. He recalled the initial resistance to automatic transmissions when they first replaced manual gearboxes. Despite initial skepticism, automatic transmissions have now become the norm. "When we first moved, not

everyone was convinced about our automatic transmissions. But eventually now... everyone has one," Cohen noted. He draws a parallel between that transition and the current shift towards electrified four-cylinder engines, suggesting that, over time, consumers will adapt to and even embrace these new technologies.

A Broader Perspective

This shift to a smaller, electrified powertrain is not just a decision based on environmental concerns but is also a strategic move to future-proof the AMG brand. **Michael Schiebe**, head of Mercedes' performance division, has echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the need to be open-minded about new technologies. According to Schiebe, the decision to move away from the V8 engine is a "very, very progressive" step, ensuring that AMG remains at the forefront of automotive innovation. Despite the pushback from traditionalists, the brand is confident that this downsizing will not detract from the driving experience that AMG is known for.

Money Talks

As the automotive industry continues to evolve, Mercedes-AMG's shift towards four-cylinder plug-in hybrids is emblematic of a broader trend toward sustainability and efficiency. The upcoming CLE63 coupe and convertible, set to replace the two-door C63 and E63 models, will further cement this new direction. While the purists have yet to warm up to these changes, Mercedes-Benz remains optimistic about the future. As Cohen pointed out, transitions always take time and some convincing, but ultimately, it's the quality of the product that will win people over.

For the folks at Mercedes-AMG, ultimate performance may have the last word; when it comes to running the business, it's the customers' dollars that speak loudest. Thus, it remains to be seen if the manufacturer's efforts to normalize the 4-banger AMGs will work in their favor, or ultimately turn the customer base away and backfire.

[>>Join the conversation about the 4-cylinder AMGs right here on MBWorld.org](#)

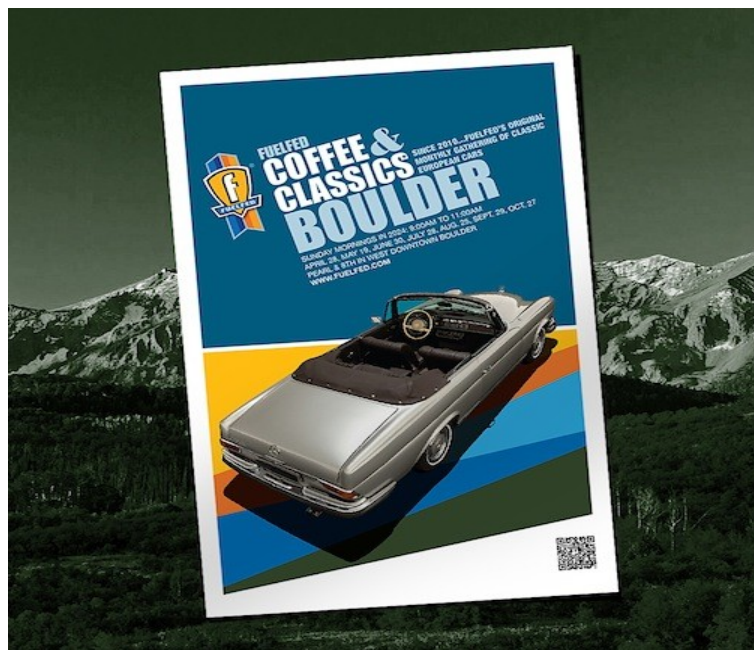
Classified Items for Sale

Ad Terms: 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 or services at no charge provided that no commercial promotion is involved. Ads may include a photo. Submitters are asked to contact the editor immediately upon the sale of automobile or item, or conclusion of a business or service advertised.



Francis E. Abate
BS Automotive Restoration Technology,
McPherson College

240.401.4624
francis@firstriderestorations.com
Steamboat Springs, CO



For Sale: 1958 Mercedes Benz 220S Coupe, very good to excellent condition. Located in Falcon CO. Contact Regina at 719-332-1537.

For Sale: 2017 S550, VIN # WDDUG8FB1HA314773, 36,500 miles

Purchased March 1, 2022 from MB Westminster for \$65,500 with 31,600 miles. Second owner, the first owner was the F & I Manager at the dealership. MB Westminster sold it new and has all the service records. I have the new window sticker of \$120,000. I believe it has every upgrade package available. Includes two keys & manuals.

From what I found online there are a few of these around the country listed for sale at \$37,000 to \$42,000. Depending on features and miles, I would consider offers in the high \$30,000s, not desperate, but would be as reasonable as possible working with a buyer. Contact Brad Hendrix at 303 946-9112.



For Sale: 2017 CLA AMG63S, Obsidian black/Designo red-black leather, 23,000 miles, Colorado car. New tires, ceramic coating (10 yr warranty), excellent inside and out. Factory raised speed limiter to 186 mph, 577 HP-590 torque. \$73,000 Contact Mark at 719-331-2614, msreich@comcast.net.



Interested in an MBCA Name Badge? Here's How to Get Yours!

MBCA logo name badges serve as excellent identifiers at MBCA Sectional, Regional, or National events, fostering camaraderie among members.

Now, you can personalize your badge through a new feature launched on the MBCA website in June 2024: ProShop.

Assuming you've already set up your account on the MBCA website, follow these steps:

1. Log in at MBCA website.
2. Click on the "Members Only" button.
3. Navigate to the "MBCA Store" section. Don't be confused by the fact that it's labeled as "Mercedes-Benz Club of America"—it's still ProShop.
4. ProShop operates independently from MBCA, so you'll need to create a separate account here (your MBCA.org login/password won't work).
5. Once inside ProShop, you'll find the name badges prominently displayed. ProShop offers three different formats of name badges.

Get noticed – grab your personalized name badge today!

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