



The Constellation

Newsletter of the Mile High Section

November 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



Our **Fall Road Trip** to Steamboat Springs was spectacular. The scenery was colorful and the temperature was great although it was a bit nippy in the morning. Thank you, Mike Redel, for putting together this wonderful trip. Many members from the Pikes Peak Section joined us too. The drive up Poudre Canyon to Walden and then over to Steamboat Springs was fun

and picturesque. Thank you, Francis Abate, for hosting the Meet & Greet at your home Friday night. Saturday morning's Coffee, Cars, and Pancakes was very well attended and many beautiful cars were on display. The drive to and then lunch at Steamboat Lake State Park was very enjoyable. We met for dinner at Brass Kitchen & Bar where we had a

magnificent time and great food. The event was well attended and we all had a great time visiting with friends.





On November 9, at 12 noon, we are planning a **Members' Meeting** at The Wishbone Family Restaurant, 9701 Federal Blvd, Westminster. For over five decades The Wishbone has been serving family comfort food and is known for their fried chicken

dinners. 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. Please RSVP to Whitlow Wong by December 1 at whitlowwong@comcast.net.



Our upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place
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-AMG One Improves Its Own Nurburgring Record

In near-perfect weather conditions, the Mercedes-AMG One has set another official Nurburgring lap record, improving on its previous best by a big margin.

By [Verdad Gallardo](#) - October 2, 2024

The [Mercedes-AMG One](#) has broken its own record at the [Nürburgring-Nordschleife](#), securing the fastest lap for a production car yet again. On September 23, 2024, the [hypercar](#) completed the 12.944-mile track with a remarkable time of 6:29.090, improving its previous best by over five seconds. The first record was set in October 2022 (6:35.183 on the full 20,832 lap) but this time, ideal conditions on the Green Hell allowed driver **Maro Engel** to push the vehicle even further, breaking the 6:30 barrier for the first time in history.

Maro Engel, a DTM driver and Mercedes-AMG ambassador, piloted the car during the record-breaking run. He mentioned that during the previous attempt, some parts of the track were still damp, impacting the vehicle's performance. In contrast, this attempt benefited from a completely dry track, with cool temperatures around 15°C (59°F) in the air and 20°C (68°F) on the asphalt. Engel's efforts showcased the car's maximum potential, aided by practice runs on simulators. He also had to adjust his driving slightly due to a track modification at the Foxhole curve, which now requires a longer line.

The Mercedes-AMG One isn't just any hypercar—it's powered by Formula 1-inspired technology. The 1.6-liter turbo V6 engine, paired with four electric motors, delivers a total of 1,049 horsepower. The hybrid system includes an Energy Flow Control (EFC) mechanism that manages energy distribution during the lap. Engel utilized this system, strategically lifting his foot off the throttle to recharge the battery and deploy energy at crucial moments on the track. The car's "Race Plus" mode further enhanced performance by lowering the suspension and activating active aerodynamics.

Breaking a five-second gap on such a long track is no small feat, and the entire Mercedes-AMG team celebrated the result. **Michael Schiebe**, Chairman of the Board of [Mercedes-AMG](#), praised the collaborative effort and stated, "We've once again demonstrated what is possible with the unique AMG One." The team meticulously optimized every aspect of the hypercar, even using standard Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 R MO tires specially developed for the AMG One to

handle the challenges of the Nürburgring's demanding layout.

While the AMG One currently holds the crown, it remains to be seen how long this record will stand. The hypercar's rivals, such as the Aston Martin Valkyrie, Koenigsegg Jesko Attack, and Czinger 21C, have yet to make official attempts at Nürburgring. As the pursuit of speed continues, it's likely just a matter of time before another challenger rises to claim the title.

Mercedes-Benz is supercharging its in-car voice assistant with generative AI, paving the way for more natural interactions and personalized driver experiences.

The automaker's upgraded MBUX Virtual Assistant will run on the next-generation MB.OS operating system to create "the most human-like interface with a Mercedes-Benz yet," the company says. Examples include predictive behavior, like playing the morning's news headlines upon entering the vehicle or offering to dial into a meeting if the vehicle owner's calendar indicates they are running late for a meeting.

[Mercedes vehicles already have voice-command capabilities](#), allowing drivers to use the phrase, "Hey, Mercedes," followed by a short command to do things like adjust the temperature in the vehicle, find a navigation destination, or place a phone call.

"The most human-like interface with a Mercedes-Benz yet"

Generative AI could make these queries more natural and less prone to false positives — theoretically. ChatGPT and other large-language model (LLM) chatbots have been known to serve up [false information](#) and OpenAI is being targeted in a number of defamation and [copyright infringement lawsuits](#). Mercedes won't say which company it is working with to update its voice assistant.

Mercedes and other automakers are trying to get out in front of the AI boom that's exploding across the tech industry. Companies like [Volkswagen](#), [BMW](#), and [Hyundai](#) are promising more sophisticated in-car voice assistants bolstered with the same LLMs that power the most popular chatbots.

The German automaker has what many consider to be one of the most capable voice assistants in MBUX, which was first introduced in 2018 and is short for "Mercedes-Benz User Experience."

The voice assistant's speech will rely on an LLM for natural dialogue and answers to customer questions. It will also feature four "personality traits": natural, predictive, personal, and empathetic. "The effect is more like a conversation with a friend," the company claims. "The assistant answers questions based on general knowledge and can also ask intelligent questions to clarify intent and draw conclusions."

The assistant can be customized to fit the driver's preferences, including tone and speaking style. Want something more empathetic for those days when traffic is making you late? The MBUX assistant will be there for you.

Among its many suppliers, [Mercedes relies on Nvidia](#) for its water-cooled chips to power its MB.OS system. The San Jose-based company has been developing high-powered GPUs and auto-grade systems-on-a-chip for a number of car clients, enabling features such as advanced driver assist, in-car graphics, and AI.

Mercedes-Benz spokesperson Cathleen Decker declined to name the specific company that was supplying its generative AI technology. "The company works with a range of technology partners to develop and implement the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and natural language processing," she said in an email. "Mercedes-Benz is committed to working with the best partners in the industry to ensure that the MBUX system remains at the forefront of automotive technology."

Previously, Mercedes said it was [testing OpenAI's ChatGPT](#) for its cars, but today's press release makes no mention of the buzzy chatbot. The company said it was interested in evaluating ChatGPT's ability to help drivers get answers to complex questions while keeping their hands on the wheels and eyes on the road. Volkswagen announced yesterday its plan to install ChatGPT in its cars starting later this year.

In-car distractions are at an all-time high

In-car distractions are at an all time high. But rather than try to limit the amount of technology being crammed into cars, automakers are increasingly turning to more high-tech fixes to encourage drivers to stay focused on the road.

Mercedes says the first cars with MB.OS are coming with the automaker's upcoming Mercedes Modular Architecture, or MMA, which is slated for 2025. The company's [Concept CLA](#), which had its North American debut at CES in Las Vegas this week, offers a sneak peak at what these vehicles will look like when close to production.

In addition, Mercedes is adding more videoconferencing and streaming options to its cars, including Microsoft Teams and Sony Pictures Ridevu. And a new feature called Surround Navigation offers better situational awareness presented as 3D graphics on the infotainment display powered by Unity's game engine.

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

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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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