

The SILVER STAR

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY NOV. 1



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • November 2011 • www.mbca.org/section/sierra-nevada



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UPCOMING EVENTS!

NOVEMBER 6TH
FIRST SUNDAY DRIVE
GENOA & LUNCH

DECEMBER 8TH
CHRISTMAS PARTY
AT BRICKS RESTAURANT
(PREPAID EVENT)

See Page 8 for more details.



READY FOR LUNCH AT THE WOLF CREEK GRILL.

Desperately Seeking Fall Colors

In Search of Fall Colors in the Sierra Nevada Mountains

by Marc Dodson, editor



search for fall colors. With Gary Dyer's

On October 16th, eight beautiful Mercedes-Benz cars took off on the autobahn from Reno and headed south in desperate

SLS leading the way, we headed toward Lake Tahoe, then south to Hwy 89.

Along the way we did indeed encounter a wide variety of fall colors, although Mother Nature seemed to be holding back. Alas, we were just a few days early. Isn't that just like a woman?

(continued on page 3)

NEXT MEETING
Nov. 1, 2011

SIERRA NEVADA SECTION

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 5:30 PM ON THE
FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT
MERCEDES-BENZ OF RENO
11500 S. VIRGINIA ST., RENO, NV 89511



PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST

Time to Move On

Out With the Old... In With the New



have some good news! We've filled our Secretary slot, so we now have a full slate of officers for the coming year. Our new officers will be: President, Gary Dyer; Vice President, Bob Proctor; Treasurer, Carolyn Phillips; and Secretary, Darryl Van Dorn. Darryl meets all the stringent qualifications that have been met by the other new officers: he's breathing; he has a pulse; and he's not currently serving time in a federal prison.

Darryl is actually the result of an extensive on-going government research project that began during WW II. While Darryl (also known as Subject #XP-486) may look normal, he suffers some obvious side-effects from this science experiment gone wrong: he's bald; he can't ride a unicycle; and he can't utter the words "Jimmy Carter" without breaking into gales of laughter. Congratulations Darryl, and welcome aboard!

The new officers will take over at our November 1st meeting. At that time, we'll also tar-and-feather the outgoing President (that would be me) and blame him for everything from this section's low bank balance to the Mt. St. Helen's eruption to AIDS.

In all seriousness, I'm confident that Gary and crew will do an outstanding job of leading our section. Gary has some great ideas, a few mediocre ones, and one that stinks worse than the Russian Volga River at low tide (sorry Gary, I couldn't resist the obvious set-up). No, really, he has great ideas for changes and events that will excite, thrill, and incite riots from our members during the coming year.

While this is my last President's Exhaust, I will continue to serve as editor of this newsletter. Fred Giffels will also



continue as Performance Events Chair and Fred Giffels III will stay on as our Webmaster. Bob Doxey will retire as Social Events Chair. Thank you, gentlemen for your hard work! Thanks also to Mercedes-Benz of Reno for their support!

I also want to thank our out-going crew: Vice President, Darryl Van Dorn; Treasurer, Ron Phillips; and Secretary, Dave Gibson. These guys not only performed the duties of their office in an outstanding manner, but helped shepherd through all the initial paperwork needed to get the Sierra Nevada section up and running. Thank you gentlemen, we couldn't have done it without you!

And a big THANK YOU to everyone in the club for supporting our new section, showing up at the meetings, and attending the events. This section is growing, and the best is yet to come!

Our next meeting will be held at 5:30 on November 1st at the Mercedes-Benz Club of Reno dealership. I hope everyone can make it!

Marc Dodson, The Prez



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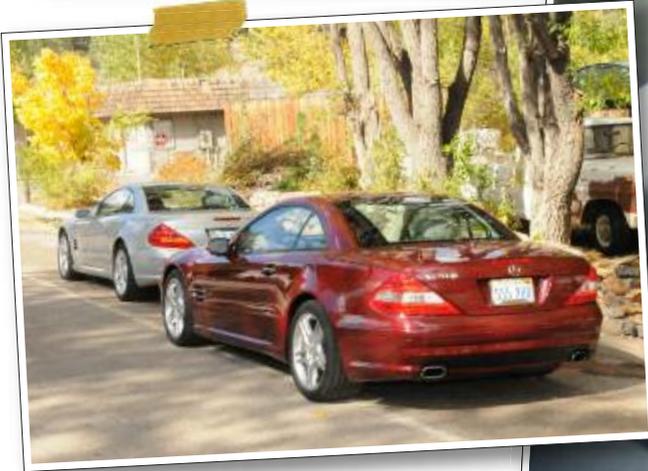
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Weasel Clause: *The Silver Star* is the official monthly publication of The Sierra Nevada Section MBCA, however, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Sierra Nevada Section, MBCA, or its officers, so there.

No animals were harmed in the testing or production of this newsletter... just the editor.

Photos by Marc & Sue Dodson.



Fall Colors

(continued from page 1)

You're raring to go but she's nowhere close to being ready on time (are we sill talking out the color of trees?).

When we hit Hwy. 89, we turned east, and finally south to Markleeville. Once there, we headed to the restroom (*finally*) and lunch at the Wolf Creek Grill where we were joined by Minden members Victor & Diane Akopian.

The Wolf Creek Grill was a great hit! Good food, wide variety on the menu, great service, fair prices, and a nice (and welcome) restroom.

Following the great meal and leisurely visit among friends, we all headed back to Reno at our own pace.

A big thanks to Bob Doxey for organizing this Fall Color Run and lunch. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time!



OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

New Western Regional Director

The MBCA election results are in and we have a new Western Regional Director. Allen Wrenn, long-time MBCA member, is our new man-in-charge. In his ballot statement, Allen writes:

"My membership in MBCA began in 1966 with the San Diego Section. Since 1972 I have been active with the Sacramento Section. My participation has included: President, San Diego Section; President, Sacramento Section; Co-Chair, 1968 National Caravan, San Diego; Organizer of numerous Section meetings; and Organizer of numerous Section driving events.

"Our newer members may not be aware that prior to our current events like StarTech and StarFest, our national events were "Caravans."

"As Regional Director my primary duty will be to serve as a common voice to carry the interests of the Region's Sections to the National Board, and to report pertinent Board actions back to the Sections.

"I have a series of goals developed from what I have observed during my 45 years of membership. My goals are aimed at increasing membership, retaining members, communicating with members and having interesting Section and Regional events."

Congratulations, Allen!

Christmas Party Costs

We're coming up on our first annual Christmas Party set for December 8th at Bricks Restaurant in Reno. It's a great restaurant with good food and Ray Rich has done an outstanding job of organizing this event.

So how were the prices determined? As many of you know, the price on the menu is never the total price you pay on the bill... there's always extras. Tax and tip add about 25% to the bottom line in addition to anything not included in the entree price.

Let's take a look at one of the four entree items offered:

Filet Mignon	\$32.00
Dinner Salad	\$8.00
Dessert	<u>\$8.00</u>
Subtotal	\$48.00
Tip	\$8.64
Tax	<u>\$3.72</u>
Total	\$60.36

The club is charging \$62 for this meal. Many times at the end of an evening with a large group, a drink was ordered that was never paid for, or there's an extra charge for something that was overlooked. If there's any money left over, it will be left as part of the tip. *NOTHING* extra from the meal charge is ending up with the club.

Hope this answers any concerns... and we'll see you at the Christmas Party!

Fernley Track Day A Day of Fun in the Sun Flyin' with my SLS

by Gary Dyer

I sure wish some SN MBCA members could have joined me on October 9th for Fernley Track Day. Kwanny Woo, Mercedes-Benz of Reno service manager, was there along with three other customers from the dealership. It was an adrenalin pumping heart throbbing exciting day. Plus it was very educational.

I got to fly my winged baby, "Blitzen" around the track. She performed magnificently. Pro Control put on the event. For those who had no prior track experience there was a training session in the morning emphasizing under steer, over steer, skid pad, max braking, lane change, etc. Others such as myself and Kwanny got a briefing about the course.

I had a great instructor who had a lot of racing experience under his belt. He drove my car with me in the passenger seat around the course a couple times showing me the apex of the turns and other nuances of the course. Then it was my turn. I was frustrated at first because he had made it look so easy. But after a few more times around the track I began to do better and better.

We broke for lunch and more classroom instruction. After lunch I was turned loose to go "Solo". It was a GREAT experience. Pro Control may be doing another Track Day in the spring. I urge all of you to try this. You will have fun and become a safer driver. It sure was a SLOW and BORING drive home.

Top Gear Comparison

The *Top Gear* boys from the BBC are at it again! This time they're comparing the Mercedes-Benz C63 AMG vs. the BMW M3 vs. the Audi RS4 in Spain. Naturally, Jeremy Clarkson grabs the C63 AMG. Great fun and fast cars!

To view the video, use your smart phone to scan the QR code, or just click on this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaZExdTHHjY>



MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA October 4, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Darryl Van Dorn called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. President Marc Dodson was absent. There were 11 members present.

MINUTES: Dave Gibson, Secretary, was absent. Sharon Van Dorn filled in for Dave. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in The Silver Star. Motion was seconded and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Phillips, was absent and Vice President Darryl, presented the financial report. Gary Dyer moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Bob Doxey seconded. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Vice President Darryl reported that we now have 51 memberships and approximately 90 members. This is up by 11 memberships since we first started the section.

Members were reminded if they desired to have badges, they should go to the MBCA website to place an order.

EVENTS

Truckee: It was reported that 16 people trekked to Truckee, CA for lunch at Pacific Crest Grill. Kwanny Woo, MB of Reno, provided a watch to be provided as the contest prize.

Upcoming Events: Bob Doxey, Social Events, has organized the Fall Color Run and lunch to Markleeville, CA. Meet at Mercedes-Benz of Reno on October 16, 2011 for an approximate 10:00 am departure.

Events Committee Reports: Bob Doxey will resign as the Social Event Chairman. We need a volunteer to fill this vacancy.

It was asked, "What kind of events should we have during the winter months when weather prevents drives?" Some of the examples given were dinner and play/concert at one of the casinos, local drive to dinner, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

National Board Meeting: President Marc provided 25 copies of our proposal to host the MBCA Spring National Board Meeting to

be given to our Western Regional Director, Lance Taylor-Warren,. Lance was not in attendance, so our proposal will be either hand carried or mailed to him so he can submit them to the National MBCA Officers.

Three copies of our proposal were handed out at the Oct. 4th meeting so the members present could see what our section was presenting. The committee of Marc Dodson, Gary Dyer and Ron Phillips selected the Atlantis as the center of meeting activities. If selected, the Sierra Nevada Section could receive \$1500 for our efforts.

Election Results:

President – Gary Dyer
Vice President – Bob Proctor
Treasurer – Carolyn Phillips
Secretary – Still Available. If interested, contact Gary Dyer

Christmas Party: Ray Rich has volunteered to organize the first Sierra Nevada Section Christmas Party. It will be held at Bricks on December 8th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fernley Raceway: There is a Mercedes-

Benz driving school to be held on Oct. 9th at the raceway. The charge is \$170 for the instruction. The advance course requires a helmet to be worn. There are helmets that can be rented at the track but one can be bought relatively cheap at Summit.

Adding Spouse Email Address: It was brought up that many households have two email addresses. It was recommended that all club business (ie., newsletter, announcements, etc.) be sent to both addresses. Motion was made by Gary Dyer and seconded by Vic Akopian. This will require that the email addresses be provided to Marc Dodson.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held November 1st.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted


Sharon Van Dorn, Acting Secretary



FIRST SUNDAY DRIVE

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 6TH

*A TRIP THROUGH FRANKTOWN & GENOA TO
WALLEY'S HOT SPRINGS*



*ENJOY A GREAT SCENIC DRIVE &
LUNCH WITH FRIENDS*

MEET AT THE MERCEDES-BENZ OF RENO DEALERSHIP • 10:00 AM

Choose from their Breakfast or Lunch Menu

Everyone will pay for their own meal.

Any questions, please call.

Marc Dodson (775) 333-1083 • marc.v.dodson@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY



SIERRA NEVADA CHRISTMAS PARTY

AT BRICKS IN RENO

THURSDAY • DEC. 8TH • 6:00 PM

All Dinners include: House Salad and choice of Creme Brulee or Belgian Chocolate Mousse for Dessert. Price is per person. Tax & Tip are included.

Main Course Options:

- ★ Lemon Chicken \$50
- ★ Alaskan Halibut \$60
- ★ Rack of Lamb \$62
- ★ Filet Mignon \$62

Dinners **MUST** be paid by Nov. 15.
Make your entree selections & make your check payable to Ray Rich. Mail to Ray at:
5952 N. White Sands Rd. • Reno, NV 89511
775-851-1439 • rayrich@sbcglobal.net



FUTURE EVENTS

Sierra Nevada Events

November 1: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-333-1083.

November 6: First Sunday Drive to Genoa and lunch. Meet at the Mercedes-Benz of Reno dealership at 10:00 am. For more info, contact Marc Dodson 775-333-1083.

December 6: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-333-1083.

December 8: Sierra Nevada Section Christmas Party at Bricks Restaurant, Reno, 6:00 pm. Choice of Lemon Chicken (\$50), Halibut (\$60), Lamb (\$62), or Filet Mignon (\$62). All dinners include salad and dessert. Tax & tip are included in the price. Dinners must be PREPAID by Nov. 15. For more info, contact Ray Rich, 775-851-1439.

January 3: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-333-1083.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Marcus & Christy Dodson — Reno

"I could end the deficit in five minutes. You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP all sitting members of congress are ineligible for re-election."

— Warren Buffett

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ads are free to members. Just send your classified ad along with a photo of vehicles or auto-related products to the newsletter editor, Marc Dodson, marc.v.dodson@gmail.com.

Other Events of Interest

October 29: Mercedes-Benz & Audi Track Day, Cresson, Texas. Contact DJ de Jesus 817-319-3011.

November 1-4: SEMA Auto Show, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.semashow.com

November 3-5: MBCA National Board Meeting, Dearborn, Mich. For information contact Cindy Tumbleson at the NBO, cindy@mbca.org or 800-637 2360.

November 4: Seattle Auto Show & Future of Flight Museum, Seattle, Wash. Contact Bob Wilson 250-477-9832.

November 4: First Annual All Mercedes-Benz Car Meet, Town Square Mall, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.r129motoring.com

November 12: Food & Fun Road Trip to Zur Autobahn, Bosque County, Texas. Contact DJ de Jesus 817-319-3011.

November 12-13: Good Guys Autumn Get Together, Pleasanton, Calif. www.good-guys.com

November 18-27: LA Auto Show, Los Angeles, Calif. www.laautoshow.com

December 10: Seattle Section Holiday Gala, LeMay Car Museum, Tacoma, Wash. Contact Jerri Bean 253-670-2676.

