

The SILVER STAR

Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • February 2012 • www.sierranevada.mbc.org

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
FEB. 7**

SIERRA NEVADA

P.O. Box 17264
Reno, NV 89511-7624

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MBCA National Office
(800) 637-2360 • www.mbc.org

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UPCOMING EVENT!

FEBRUARY 5TH
SUPER BOWL PARTY!
AT THE DODSON HOME
(SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS)

A FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON OF
GOOD FOOD & GREAT FOOTBALL!

JOIN YOUR FELLOW
MEMBERS FOR A FUN PARTY!



LAKE TAHOE IN JANUARY: NO CHAINS REQUIRED.

Traveling Lake Tahoe & Genoa

Touring the Scenic Highways & Historical Sites of Nevada

by Tim Wellesley, Sierra Nevada MBCA member and connoisseur of fine automobiles



ere it is, January

in Nevada, yet the weather remains balmy, with day time temperatures hovering around 50° with mostly clear skies prompting senior officers of the Mercedes-Benz of America Club, Sierra Nevada Section, to announce a fair-weather tour, this time around beautiful Lake Tahoe. Past President, Marc Dodson, and current President, Gary Dyer, announced the plan to members which encouraged 20

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NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2012

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

The Road Ahead New Events in the Works for 2012



Hello Mercedes lovers. We had a good first year for the Sierra Nevada Section in 2011. The second year for our club will be just as good. We even managed to put together an impromptu Sunday drive on January 9th. We drove to David Walley's Hot Springs again. Only this time we drove up Mt Rose Highway along the east side of the lake and over Kingsbury Grade. We stopped at the Cave Rock boat launch for a photo op. Waiting for us at Walley's were Nancy and Wayne Jarvis, new members of our club that live in the local area. About 20 members enjoyed the lunch. We tried something new. Men sat at one end of the table and women at the other. It worked.

There are many fun things planned and some fun things I'm sure we have not thought of yet. Marc and I are traveling to San Jose, CA for a MBCA western region leadership conference on the

28 and 29 of January. I am looking forward to it. I am sure we will learn a lot.

The first club event is the Super Bowl party at Marc and Sue Dodson's home on Feb. 5th. Hold on to your hat because we're going to Fernley April 22. This is a chance to experience the capabilities of your Mercedes-Benz. The most common phrase heard after this type of event is, "Wow, I didn't know my car could do that."

A barbecue is on deck in July. We will join the Reno Jaguar Club for that party. We will ask the Jag owners to put diapers on their cars. You know those cats like to mark their territory. Come fall we are hosting the MBCA National conference. This is a great club and I am so proud to be a member of it. If anyone has any ideas for an event drop me a line.

Keep the shiny side up,



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marc.v.dodson@gmail.com

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Weasel Clause: *The Silver Star* is the official monthly publication of The Sierra Nevada Section of 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 Dodson.

Traveling Tahoe

(continued from page 1)

enthusiasts to hit the mountain roads the following Sunday, January 8th, in their prized Mercedes Benz's.

Traveling out of Reno, the Mercedes vehicles cruised South on the 395 Freeway and turned West on the Mount Rose Highway passing through the foothills of the Truckee Meadows, blanketed with sage brush. Upon entering the dense pine forest the road twisted and turned around sharp curves up the Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada mountainside, reaching 8,911 feet at the summit. This highway is the highest all-season pass in the Sierras. Taking a break, the drivers and their companions looked back at Reno and the vast Truckee Meadows some 4,500 feet below.

President Gary Dyer informed the group, "We are going on to travel Tahoe's East shore then taking Highway 207 to Walley's Hot Springs!" Most of the members, still gathered around Berry Fleischer's mint 1955 Mercedes-Benz gull-wing 300SL two-seater roadster, headed for their own cars in haste.

Resuming travel, the vehicles passed through the beautiful, high altitude alpine Tahoe Meadows. And then, as if magic, the largest alpine lake in North America appeared, Lake Tahoe, shimmering in the sunlight and surrounded by mountain peaks, some with heights over 10,000 feet. The highway then descended through pine forests, finally joining Highway 28 at Incline Village on the north shore of Tahoe.

It was explorer Captain John C. Fremont, with his guide Kit Carson, who
(continued on page 4)

September 28 – October 3

Our Section will Attend as a Group!

For more info, contact:

Rick Stacio 623-582-6694

www.mbc.org/event/2012-09-28/starfest®-2012

THIS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT 1955 300SL GULLWING IS OWNED BY MEMBERS BARRY & BARBARA FLEISCHER. JUST HOW VALUABLE IS THIS CAR? WELL, A 1954 300SL SOLD AT THE RECENT BARRET-JACKSON SCOTTS-DALE AUCTION ON JANUARY 21, 2012 FOR \$2 MILLION, A NEW RECORD FOR A 300SL.



forty-room hotel with adjoining bath-houses. *The Weekly News* reported, "From a mere rock pile has risen a magnificent hotel, bath-houses, stabling and ball room." Marc Dodson said, "We really wanted to come back here for the great food and location on such a beautiful day!" His choice seemed right-on as everyone enjoyed the experience together.

Walley's was the last place all the tour members were together before going their own way back to Reno. Member Don Williams, reflected, "This was a great tour both socially and in learning so much about Nevada and it's rich history." Some of us preceded on to Genoa just a couple of miles up the road.

Genoa was the first permanent settlement in Nevada, and was first called Mormon Station, named for the majority of inhabitants who were Mormons. Many explorers and trappers passed by this location because it was on the Carson Immigrant Trail and close to Daggett Pass and the California Trail, gateways to California. The first trading post was built here in 1851, followed by a blacksmith shop and corral for livestock. Thousands of people going to the gold diggings and new settlements in California would make this location prosperous through buying and selling goods and services. Many stayed to build homes and ranches and soon Nevada's first hotel, bar, newspaper and court emerged. The newspaper, the *Territorial Enterprise* founded in 1858, moved to Virginia City, Nevada, upon discovery of the Comstock Lode. The papers most familiar writer was none other than Mark Twain!

As we traveled through Genoa, Katherine shouted, "Deer. It's a huge buck - Mule Deer!" We were able to get within 20 feet with the animal remaining totally calm and peaceful. Upon further inspection, we witnessed a whole herd of deer obviously very comfortable in their protected Genoa surroundings.

While heading back to Reno, traveling the old route through Jack's Valley and Carson, we thought; Williams was right. The trip was very special with good friends, outstanding scenic views and rewarding historical significance.



TAKING A BREAK AT THE TOP OF MT. ROSE HWY.

Traveling Tahoe

(continued from page 3)

first laid eyes on Lake Tahoe in 1844, which was then inhabited by indigenous Washoe Indians. The Washoe's named the lake, "Tah-ve," a word signifying snow, which sounded like "Tahoe" to the travelers.

Following the Eastern route around the lake and through Cave Rock Tunnel, the tour group turned left on Kingsbury Grade, Highway 207, just before entering the glitzy gambling community of South Lake Tahoe. The vehicles reached Daggett Pass at an elevation of 7,344 feet. My wife Katherine said, "Can you believe this road was crowded with freight wagons, stage coaches, buckboards and horse riders back in the 1860's? Wow!" Not only that, but this route was also used by the Pony Express. Known as Daggett Pass Trail in the 1850's, Kingsbury & McDonald turned it into a wagon toll road in 1860 shortening the distance between the Comstock Lode and Sacramento by 15 miles. Horse-drawn water carts sprinkled summer dust, and sleds

packed winter snow, providing a year-round hard-surfaced road.

Located in the Virginia Range, just a short distance from Nevada's capitol of Carson City, the Comstock was the first major discovery of silver in the United States. Discovered in 1859, thousands of prospectors, speculators, businessmen, outlaws and others invaded the area to get rich quick.

After crossing the summit, the Mercedes group experienced a spectacular view of the vast Carson Valley some 2,600 feet below. And, the highway down was very steep and curvy forcing drivers to used lower gears for the rapid descent.

Turning left at the base of the Sierra's, on Highway 206, perhaps only a few realized we were now traveling the original Carson Branch of the Immigrant Trail, once used by countless pioneers seeking new lives or, perhaps, wealth as a result of the 1849 California Gold Rush. Soon, the group turned into Walley's Hot Springs, a beautiful hostelry, restaurant, and hot springs with a magnificent view of the Carson Valley. Built in 1862, David Walley and his wife Harriet, built a fashionable

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

New 2013 SL

All New SL This Spring

by MotorTrend (reprinted with permission)



In all new 2013 Mercedes-Benz SL is set to hit U.S. dealer showrooms this spring. This is the first SL constructed almost entirely of aluminum. The body is stronger than the predecessor's steel construction thanks to a number of unique techniques such as chill casting, MIG welding, and friction stir welding. The aluminum diet program is good for a 275-pound reduction compared to the outgoing SL550. Despite its larger dimensions (1.97 inches longer and 2.24 inches wider), the estimated curb weight is a tad over 3900 pounds.

Under the hood, the 2013 SL550 will receive the 4.6-liter, direct-injected, twin-turbo, V-8 engine that has made its way throughout much of the Mercedes-Benz lineup. Power is rated at 429 hp and 516 lb-ft of torque, a significant boost to the outgoing car's 382 hp and 391 lb-ft. Mercedes has estimated a conservative 0-60 mph time of 4.5 seconds. Despite the performance gains, the SL will also be thrifter at the pump



thanks to a revised seven-speed transmission and ECO start/stop technology.

The SL will come standard with the automaker's latest safety gadgets, including Pre-Safe, Attention Assist, and Adaptive Brakes.

To view a video of the new SL with a demonstration of all of the new comfort, safety, and performance features, use your smart phone to scan the QR code or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHTxRg5gtn0>



Amtrak Train Trip Cancelled

Virgin Sacrifice Planned as an Alternate Event

Maybe it was just too far ahead to plan the trip, but our Amtrak Train Trip to Sacramento March 16-17 had to be cancelled. Just not enough people had paid by the January 20th deadline. The early deadline was set by Amtrak in order to get the quoted special reduced rate.

However, don't despair... we have an alternate event that's sure to please everyone: A Virgin Sacrifice!

Obviously, finding a virgin can be a problem, but we were able to locate one, and right in our own club. Our Vice President, Bob Proctor, is the only person in the club who met the necessary qualifications, so he wins by default. Congratulations Bob!

MBCA Name Badges

We encourage all members to wear their MBCA name badges to all section meetings and events.

WHAT??? You don't have a name badge? Right now you're probably thinking, "How can I, a mere mortal, achieve the level of prestige and acclaim of those that proudly display their MBCA name badges for all to see?"

This one item will not only identify you as an official MBCA member, it will:

- ✓ Make you taller
- ✓ Make you slimmer
- ✓ Restore your hair
- ✓ Improve your sexual prowess

How much would you be willing to pay for such a miracle item?

\$1,000? \$2,000? \$5,000?

Well, now you can order your name badge for a mere \$9.75!

But wait, there's more...

If you order in the next 10 minutes you can get **TWO** for \$19.50!

With this name badge you can hold your head up high! You will become the envy of the neighborhood, the first on your block, and the proud owner of a MBCA name badge identifying you as part of an elite group that has \$9.75 to spend.

Operators are standing by!

Call the MBCA office at (800) 637-2360, or order online by going to: www.mbcaw.org/product/name-badge

Or you can use your smart phone to scan the QR code to the right:



MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA January 3, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: President Gary Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

MINUTES: In the December meeting minutes, it was reported in the Announcement Section that Alex Evans was going on a tour through Europe with the Jaguar Club. That was not correct as the Jaguar Club is not going, just the Evans and another couple from the Jaguar Club. The minutes were approved as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marc Dodson presented the financial report as Treasurer Carolyn Phillips was absent. A check for \$100 was written to the National Automobile Museum for our clubs sponsorship of the 300SL Gullwing. Marc Dodson made the motion to accept the report and seconded by George Brady. The motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Marc Dodson reported that we have 53 memberships.

EVENTS:

Social:

Christmas Party: Ray Rich reported that the Brick's Restaurant did an excellent job on our first Christmas Party that was held December 8th. Mercedes-Benz of Reno was well represented and provided beverages at each table and donated raffle gifts. Marc Dodson also reported that he has received emails from other clubs and National Officers expressing how impressed they were with the percentage of our members that attended.

Future Events:

Comedy Club: Marc Dodson has organized an event at the Comedy Club for January 13th for a dinner/show. The buffet starts at 5:30 pm with the show starting at 7:30 pm. Eight couples have signed up.

Super Bowl Party: Marc and Sue Dodson will be throwing a Super Bowl Party on February 5th. The party will start at 2:30 pm with the game starting at 3:15 pm. The main course will be provided by the Dodsons. The appetizers, side dishes and desserts are to be provided by those attending. Please call Sue to let her know if you plan to attend and what you plan to bring or what Sue needs.

Train Trip: Marc Dodson has organized an overnight train trip from Reno to Sacramento and back. The dates for the trip are March 16th and 17th. In order to get a special price, the train tickets have to be paid by January 20th. Round Trip Reno to Sacramento \$63.92 per person (\$127.84 per couple). We leave Reno at 8:36 am and arrive in Sacramento 2:13 pm.

Dinner will be at the Rio City Cafe. We will return leaving Sacramento at 11:09 am and arrive Reno 4:06 pm. If you plan on going on this trip, send in your check to Marc Dodson. Make your check payable to Sierra Nevada MBCA.

We will be staying at the Embassy Suites which is within walking distance of the train station. The room rate will be \$149/night plus 10% discount for AARP or AAA. The Embassy Suites number is 916-326-5000 and tell them you are with the Mercedes Club (reservation number is 82009870).

Performance:

Track Day: Gary announced that he is trying to plan a track day at Reno/Fernley Raceway. The planning date is Father's Day weekend. To get the cost down, he is also talking to the Porsche and BMW Clubs to have them join in the day also.

OLD BUSINESS:

MBCA National Board Meeting: MBCA National Board is planning to have their Fall National Meeting in Reno the first week of November. Lance Taylor-Warren is suppose to find hotels in Reno that are cheaper than the Atlantis which was in our proposal. Mean while, the Atlantis will hold the prices that they proposed for the meeting that was originally planned for the Spring. MBCA will be coming to Reno either way.

National Automobile Museum Car Sponsorship:

Gary reported that our club will be sponsoring the 300SL Gullwing in the National Automobile Museum. The cost to sponsor is \$100/year and entails periodic cleaning (approx. four times a year) of the vehicle and also includes free admission to the museum for Sierra Nevada MBCA members.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday Drive: The weather has been unseasonably warm and President Gary recommended we go for another Sunday drive and have lunch at Walley's Hot Spring since everyone enjoyed lunch there before. If you are interested, be at Mercedes Benz of Reno at 10:00 am on January 8th. Gary will have a different route for us to follow this time.

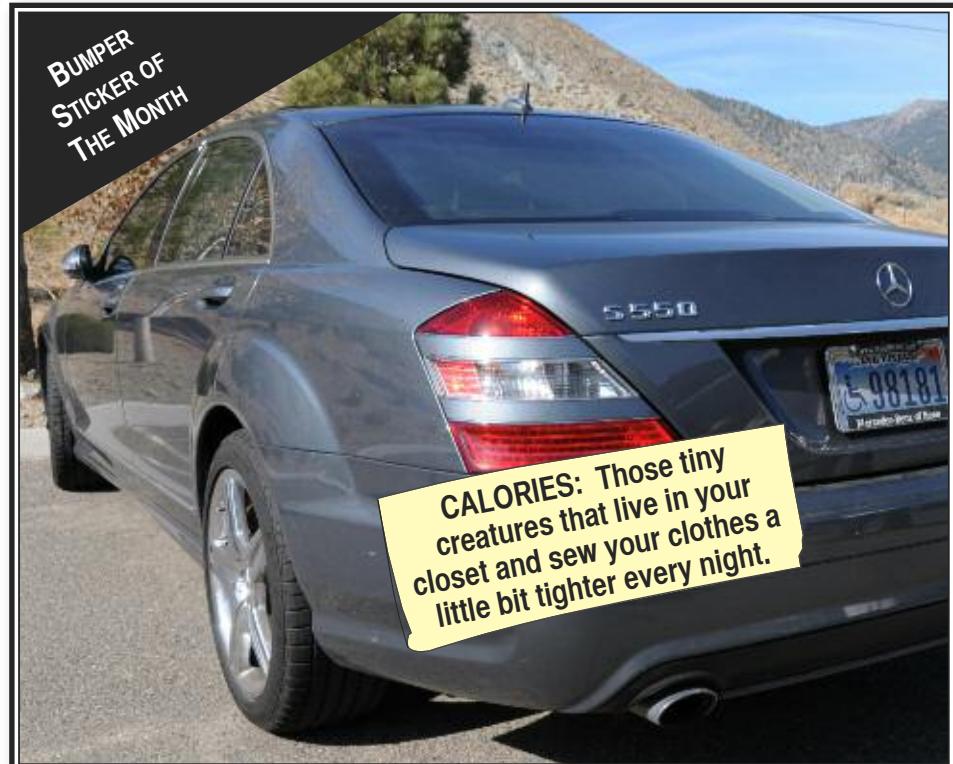
Webmaster: It was announced that our Webmaster, Fred Giffels III, got a job after graduating from UNR. He will be going to work for Porsche.

ADJOURNMENT: Alex Evans made the motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by George Brady. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Darryl Van Dorn, Secretary





Food & Laughter Dinner & a Show in Downtown Reno

by Marc Dodson, editor



It was a night of great food and gales of laughter for Sierra Nevada MBCA members. Our odyssey began on the night of January 13th at Silver Legacy's Flavors buffet. Twenty of our members took their pick of everything from Chinese food to prime rib to King Crab legs. As if that wasn't enough, most partook of the plethora of desserts ranging from bread pudding to fruit pies to ice cream.

Once we had sufficiently gorged ourselves to ensure that we could make it

through the rest of the evening without succumbing to malnutrition, we waddled down to the "Catch A Rising Star" comedy club.

We were all seated together in the safety of the back of the club, out of the eye-line of the comedic performers. Our headliner was Ian Gutoskie, a monster of a man, rising 6'-6" off the stage floor.

In no time, Gutoskie had us rolling in the aisles with his comedic view of life and relationships.

Once the comedy show was over, we said our goodbyes and headed our separate ways. It was the end to another great Sierra Nevada event!



Sierra Nevada MBCA Sponsors 1955 300SL Gullwing at the National Automobile Museum

Your club is now the proud sponsor of the 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing at the National Automobile Museum in Reno. The museum has been named one of the "Top Ten Auto Museums" by *Car Collector* magazine, and "One of the Best Car Museums in the World" by *AutoWeek*.

Free Admission for Members

In addition to proudly seeing the Sierra Nevada MBCA name displayed on a plaque in front of the car, all members and their spouses (if we have your spouse's name) get *FREE* admission to the museum anytime the museum is open. Additionally, all members receive a 10% discount at the museum store, which includes Mequias auto care products and many rare automotive books.

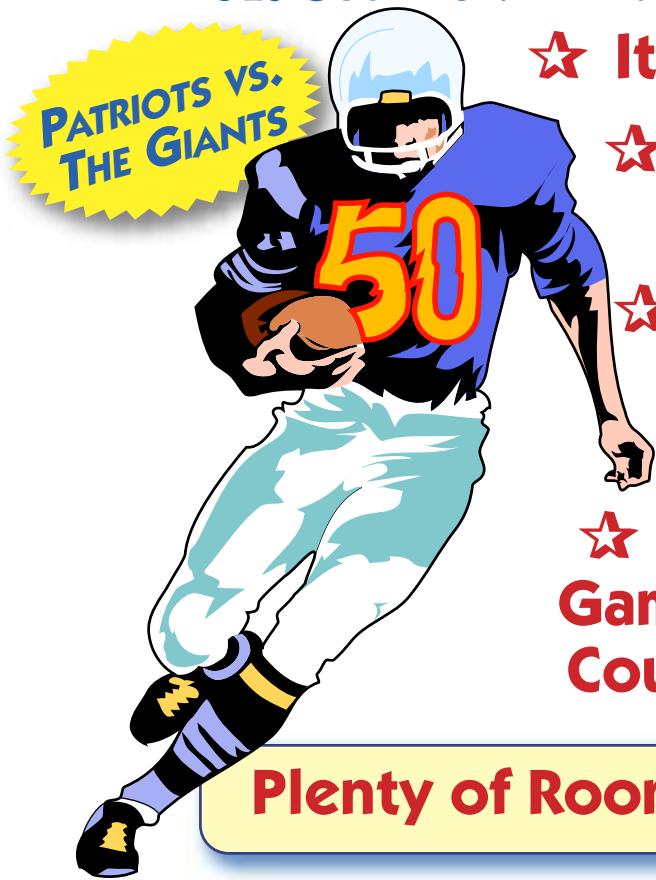
In order to qualify for the free admission, all members and their spouses' names have been submitted to the National Auto Museum. If we don't have a record of the spouse/partner/companion/concubine's name, contact Marc Dodson at 775-333-1083 or email marc.v.dodson@gmail.com.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 5TH

**SIERRA NEVADA MBCA SUPER BOWL PARTY
AT MARC & SUE DODSON'S HOME**

546 COURT ST. • RENO, NV 89501 • 775-333-1083



- ★ **It's the Game of the Century!**
- ★ **It's a National Religious Holiday!**
- ★ **It's the Most Important Event in The History of The World!**
- ★ **The Outcome of this One Game Will Forever Change the Course of Life on This Planet!**

Plenty of Room and Plenty of HD TVs

The Party starts at 2:30 pm. The Big Game starts at 3:15.
What Should You Bring?

- ✓ Your Own Drinks
- ✓ A Side Dish, Appetizer, or Dessert to Share

The Dodsons will provide the main course. Call Sue to let her know that you're coming and what you'll be bringing.

👉 Sue Dodson • 775-333-1083 • sue.a.dodson@gmail.com

WAX & SHINE PARTY

FEB. 23RD
(THURSDAY)

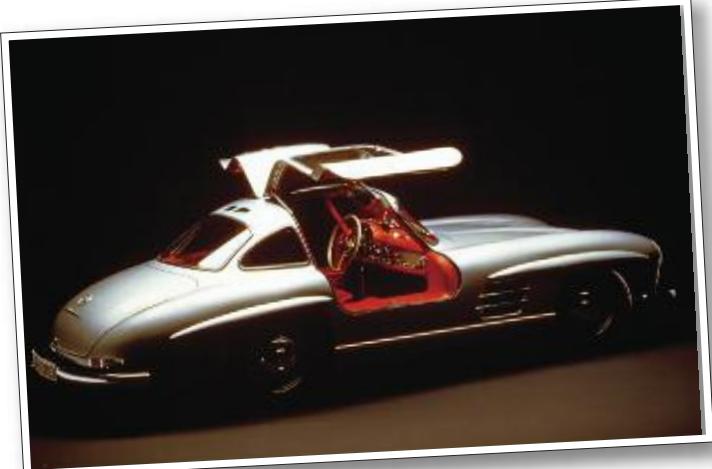


5:30 PM

10 South Lake St., Reno, NV 89501 (Corner of Lake & Mill)

SIERRA NEVADA MBCA EVENT TIME TO TAKE CARE OF OUR 1955 300SL GULLWING

A LITTLE BIT OF WAX & SHINE, THEN WE'LL ALL GO TO DINNER!



The Museum Supplies All Cleaning Material

This is our First Chance to Get Up Close &
Personal With our Adopted 1955 GullWing

And a Great Opportunity to Socialize!

Meet at the National Automobile Museum, 10 S. Lake Street (Lake & Mill), Reno, NV 89501

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

FEBRUARY 2012

FUTURE EVENTS

Sierra Nevada Events

February 5: Super Bowl Party at the Dodsons, 2:30 pm (the game starts at 3:15). Plenty of room and HD-TVs. Bring your own drinks and an appetizer, side-dish, or dessert to share. The Dodsons will provide the main course. Call Sue Dodson to let her know that you're coming and what you'll be bringing, 775-333-1083.

February 7: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, 5:30 pm. Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-747-4429.

February 23: Adopt-A-Car Wax & Shine Party, 5:30 pm, National Automobile Museum, Reno, Nev. 775-333-1083.

March 6: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, 5:30 pm. Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-747-4429.

March 16-17: Amtrak train trip to Sacramento, stay at the Embassy Suites, 916-326-5000. Cost for the round trip train ticket is \$63.92 per person. Must be Pre-Paid by January 20. For more info, contact Marc Dodson, 775-333-1083.

April 3: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, 5:30 pm. Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-747-4429.

April 22: Track Day at Reno-Fernley Raceway. \$195 per person. Details to follow. Contact Gary Dyer 775-747-4429.

May 1: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, 5:30 pm. Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-747-4429.

May 10: Adopt-A-Car Wax & Shine Party, 5:30 pm, National Automobile Museum, Reno, Nev. 775-333-9300.

June 5: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, 5:30 pm. Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-747-4429.

~~CANCELLED~~

January 28: Tech Session 1951 220 Cabriolet Restoration, La Vernia, Texas. Contact Greg Haag 830-591-7535.

February 23: Adopt-A-Car Wax & Shine Party, 5:30 pm, National Automobile Museum, Reno, Nev. 775-333-9300.

February 23: Mullins Automotive Museum & Lunch, Oxnard, Calif. mbca.lbsb@gmail.com

May 10: Adopt-A-Car Wax & Shine Party, 5:30 pm, National Automobile Museum, Reno, Nev. 775-333-9300.

May 17-20: Nevada Open Road Challenge, Nevada Hwy 318. www.silverstateclassic.com

June 6: Silver Classic Car Auction, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. www.silverauctions.com

June 22-24: Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction, Orange County, Calif. www.barrett-jackson.com

July 7: Silver Classic Car Auction, Spokane, Wash. www.silverauctions.com

July 19: Adopt-A-Car Wax & Shine Party, 5:30 pm, National Automobile Museum, Reno, Nev. 775-333-9300.

August 7-12: Hot August Nights, Reno & Sparks, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net

August 9-11: Silver Classic Car Auction, Bartley Ranch, Reno, Nevada. www.silverauctions.com

August 9-12: Hot August Nights Classic Car Auction, Reno Convention Center, Reno, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net

August 13-20: Bonneville Speed Week, Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. www.scta-bri.org

August 15-19: Pebble Beach, Concours D'Elegance, Pebble Beach, Calif. www.pebblebeachconcours.net

September 13-16: Silver State Classic Challenge, Nevada Hwy 318. www.silverstateclassic.com

September 27: Adopt-A-Car Wax & Shine Party, 5:30 pm, National Automobile Museum, Reno, Nev. 775-333-9300.

September 20-22: Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.barrett-jackson.com

September 28-October 3: StarFest 2012, Phoenix, Ariz. www.mbc.org/event/2012-09-28/starfest@-2012

CLASSIFIEDS

Mercedes-Benz 1991 500SL, black with tan interior. Two tops with hard top holder. BBS rims, CD changer in trunk, heated seats, electric seats. All maintenance performed regularly. Excellent condition. 100,000 miles. \$8,000 OBO. Call member Paula Scott 775-721-6849.



Classified Ads for Mercedes-Benz autos and related items 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

William Beckers — Murphys, Calif.