

The SILVER STAR

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY OCT. 4



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



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UPCOMING EVENT!

OCT. 16TH • 10:00 AM

**DRIVE & LUNCH
TO MARKLEEVILLE
WOLF CREEK GRILL**

**MEET AT THE
MERCEDES-BENZ OF RENO**

Questions?
Bob Doxey • (775) 746-0221



LUNCH TIME AT THE PACIFIC CREST GRILL.

Truckee Trekin'

Drive to Truckee & Lunch at The Pacific Crest Grill

by Gary Dyer



ixteen people participated in the drive on Sept. 11th, including a couple from the San Francisco Club. Also, Frank Curcio who met us there because he lives west

of Truckee. I led the parade as usual. After a few cars went through the Ag inspection station the fellow there said, "I sense a theme here." The weather was great for the drive. The only problem was finding a parking place. I was lucky to find one almost in front of the
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**NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 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

Room for More

New Club Officers & a Couple of Vacancies



ell, the ballots are in, they've been counted, the hanging-chads have been inspected, and it's official: Gary

Dyer will serve as our next President; Bob Proctor will serve as Vice president; and Carolyn Phillips will be our new Treasurer. Congratulations, and we look forward to a great coming year! The new officers/board will take over November 1st.

However, we still have one position open... that of Secretary. The duties aren't difficult, we just need someone to take notes at the meeting and then submit them for publication in the newsletter. Any volunteers?

We also have a non-elected position that needs to be filled, that of Social Events Chair. Bob Doxey has done an excellent job of keeping us entertained at least once a month with drives and restaurant locations. Unfortunately, Bob has to step down due to personal reasons. Bob was one of the original petition signers to get our new section off the ground and has been very active since its inception. Bob, thank you for all your help!

The Social Events Chair is not a hard job, in fact, I've done it myself, so you know it has to be easy. However, it does take planning and organizational skills. Please let me know if you're interested.

Speaking of organizational skills, new member Ray Rich took the ball at the last meeting and offered to set-up our first Christmas Party. The big event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 8th at Bricks Restaurant in Reno. As of this writing, the details are still being negotiated: the menu; the price; what color to select for the SLS



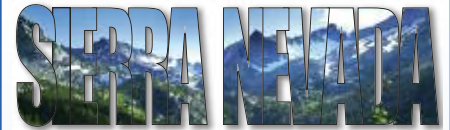
that the club will give to the outgoing President (that would be me, and I prefer Iridium Silver). So don't touch that dial... we'll keep you informed as the details of the Christmas Party surface.

Next month's event will take place on Sunday, October 16th. Why so late in the month? Well, every year we have some beautiful fall colors that make an appearance in this area, and with any luck, the middle of October should offer the prime viewing window.

Bob Doxey has arranged for a drive to Markleeville and lunch at the Wolf Creek Restaurant. For those of you that have never visited this particular area, Markleeville is located on a winding two-lane road, south of Lake Tahoe, in the Sierra Nevadas. This promises to be a great drive right in the heart of the area where the fall colors will be on display.

Our next meeting will be held at 5:30 on October 4th at the Mercedes-Benz Club of Reno dealership. I hope everyone can make it!

Marc Dodson,
The Prez



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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.




Truckee Trekin'

(continued from page 1)

restaurant. I didn't notice the pay for parking sign and went merrily into the restaurant. Luckily Ray Rich and Joe Avilla happened to be passing by and saved me from getting a ticket. Thanks again Ray!

After lunch orders were taken I passed out the quiz for the drive. Amazingly there was a tie. Robert Schilling from the San Francisco Club and Alex Evans had to answer a tie breaker question. Robert won out. Kwanny Woo of Mercedes-Benz of Reno donated a beautiful watch as the prize. Thank you Mercedes-Benz of Reno!

Robert Schilling and I discussed a possible joint get-together with the San Francisco club this coming spring or next fall. After lunch the girls HAD to go shopping, of course. Alex and I enjoyed a cup of coffee at the bar and discussed watches. We all returned home separately. We got caught in a down pour because we did some shopping in Reno.

All in all, it was a very pleasant drive, no tickets, (thanks again Ray), no break-downs and no accidents just a lot of fun driving and good food. Bob Doxey and I discussed a possible drive to Sorenson's for the fall colors in October. The weather will have to turn cold for the leaves to change color. And the weather will have to be good for a drive. 



LILA KIRKMAN & ROBERT SHILLING FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO SECTION, WINNERS THE CHALLENGE.



OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

2012 Mercedes S-Class to Gain Coupe, Convertible Variants

Mercedes-Benz is secretly working away on an all-new flagship S-Class, not to mention several models that will evolve from it. In total, the 2012 S-Class is expected to be offered in at least four different versions, including both a coupe and a convertible.

An S-Class Coupe is really no surprise, as Mercedes has offered the CL for years based on the S-Class platform. For 2012 it will follow a similar plan to the CLK (integrating it into the E-Class lineup as the E-Class Coupe), with Mercedes deciding to axe the CL badge in favor of the S-Class Coupe name. This will help give it a more up-market vibe (not that it doesn't already have one), so that high-powered and ultra expensive AMG versions can compete more squarely with the likes of the Bentley Continental GT.

As for a convertible S-Class, Mercedes has been toying with the idea since it debuted the Ocean Drive Concept in 2007. The final two models will both be sedans, with a short wheelbase and long wheelbase option, although the long wheelbase S-Class may only be offered in North America.

New Small Mercedes Platform

By Vanessa Fuhrmans, Wall Street Journal

Thinking small has never been Mercedes-Benz's forte, but the German luxury-car maker is counting on a new generation of Mercedes compact cars—this time headed for the U.S.—to become a cornerstone of future sales gains.

The first of its revamped and expanded small cars, a retooled, sleeker Mercedes B-Class compact, is one of several small-car that debuts at the Frankfurt Motor Show.

Landing in European showrooms this fall, the B Class is the first pillar in Daimler AG's strategy to boost Mercedes compact-car sales after middling results so far. The car maker has struggled to generate much of a profit from its current A and B classes.

Sales of Mercedes's A- and B-class cars inched just 1.4% higher to 222,400 last year, while the Stuttgart, Germany, auto maker's overall sales rose 12% to 1.26 million cars. But while big sedans and sporty roadsters drive luxury-car makers' profits, Mercedes wants vehicles to introduce younger drivers to the brand.

Credit Rating

This is a pretty good explanation of the U.S. finances and why the S&P downgraded the U.S. credit rating:

- U.S. Tax revenue: \$2,170,000,000,000
- Fed budget: \$3,820,000,000,000
- New debt: \$ 1,650,000,000,000
- National debt: \$14,271,000,000,000
- Recent budget cut: \$ 38,500,000,000

Now remove eight zeros from each line and pretend it's a household budget:

- Annual family income: \$21,700
- Money the family spent: \$38,200
- New debt on the credit card: \$16,500
- Outstanding credit card balance: \$142,710
- Total budget cuts: \$385.

This makes it a little easier to see the problem.

Enhancements

I've made a few enhancements to the PDF version of the newsletter. You can now click on any link or website listed and it will take you to the appropriate place on the internet. Also, I'll start printing a few QR codes each issue for those of you who have smart phones with the appropriate apps.

You can try it out in the article to the left, or any of the links listed in the Future Events section. I've tested this on several types of computers with no issues, but I may have missed one of the older models, so let me know if you experience a problem (Darryl Van Dorn, you'll have to upgrade your Etch-A-Sketch to version 2.0 for this to work on your "computer.")

Amazing SLS Tunnel Loop!

This amazing video of the SLS AMG tunnel loop has been around awhile, but if you haven't seen it, take a look. Some say it's fake, but according to several sources, it's real. It was filmed in British Columbia where they found a tunnel with just the right cruvature to pull this off. In an altered version of this video, Michael Schumacher's face (Mercedes-Benz F1 race car driver) is used in place of the real driver, which may have led to the reason that some called it a fake... but the stunt is real!

To view the video, use your smart phone to scan this QR code, or just click on this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zauEelwQV0g>



MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA September 6, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: President Marc called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. There were 17 members present.

MINUTES: Dave Gibson, Secretary, was absent. Sue Dodson 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, Treasurer, presented the financial report. Gary Dyer moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Bob Proctor seconded. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: President Marc reported that we now have 51 memberships and approximately 90 members. This is up by 10 memberships since we first started the section. Marc reminded everyone to update their profiles with MBCA as many do not have their spouses listed on their membership.

EVENTS

South Lake Tahoe: It was reported that 14 members attended the drive to South Lake Tahoe and the Fresh Ketch August 21.

Concourse d'Elegance: Fred Giffels attended the recent Concourse d'Elegance and related events in Monterey and Pebble Beach. Photos from the events were printed in the newsletter.

Truckee: Bob Doxey has arranged for a Drive & Dine on Sunday, September 11 to downtown Truckee and The Pacific Crest Grill. We will leave for the Mercedes-Benz of Reno dealership at 10:00 am.

Montreux Golf Course: President Marc reminded everyone that the Mercedes-Benz of Reno dealership is sponsoring a charity golf tournament on Monday, September 19, at the Montreux Golf Course. He encouraged everyone to attend and help support the event.

OLD BUSINESS

National Board Meeting: Marc revisited the

idea of possibly hosting the Spring 2012 MBCA National Board Meeting. He reminded everyone that the section could earn \$1,500 for our efforts. We would have to get the proposal together and in the hands of our regional director, Lance Taylor-Warren, to present at the November MBCA National Board Meeting.

After several venues were discussed, it was decided to focus on the Atlantis. Ron Phillips, Gary Dyer, and Marc Dodson will meet with the Atlantis and see what they have to offer. Rooms, prices, meeting rooms, banquet facilities, and available dates would have to be inspected and discussed. The meeting with the Atlantis was set up for the next day.

Additionally, a possible spouse's tour to Nothing To It was discussed, as well as a possible Golf Day and side trip to the National Automobile Museum. If the Atlantis is a go and our Section Board approves the proposal, Marc will have it ready by our next meeting.

Section Elections: Everyone was reminded that our Section elections are coming up and

that the ballots printed in the last newsletter have to be returned by September 15. Candidates: President, Gary Dyer; Vice President, Bob Proctor; and Treasurer, Carolyn Phillips. The position of Secretary is still open.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Party: Ray Rich asked if he could look into planning a Christmas Dinner for the section, possibly at Bricks in Reno. Everyone agreed and Ray will proceed with his planning efforts on behalf of the club.

Next Meeting: Marc stated that none of the officers will be in town for the October 4 meeting. He suggested that we might want to cancel the meeting. Gary Dyer offered to chair the meeting so our next meeting will take place as planned, on October 4.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Dodson, Acting Secretary



FALL COLORS

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 16TH

*A TRIP THROUGH THE SIERRA NEVADAS TO VIEW
THE CHANGING FALL COLORS
LUNCH AT THE WOLF CREEK GRILL*



*ENJOY A GREAT SCENIC DRIVE &
LUNCH IN MARKLEEVILLE*

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

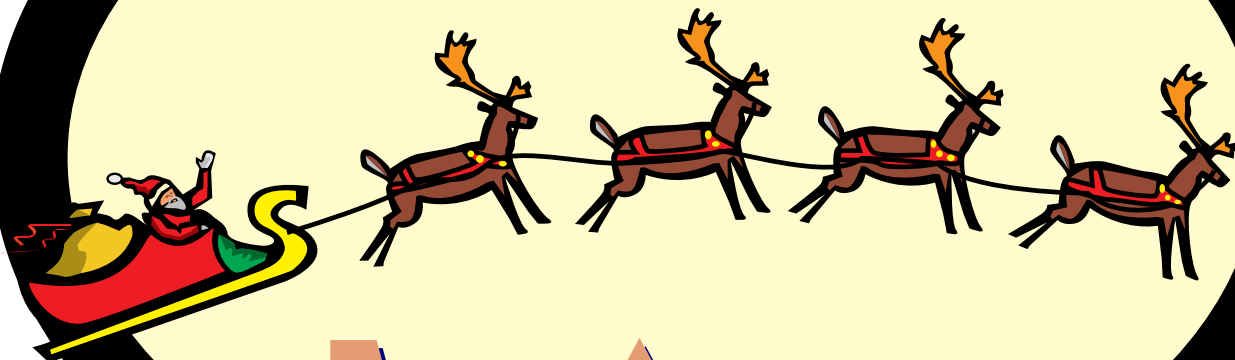
Good Times • Good Food • Good Friends

Everyone will pay for their own meal.

Any questions, please call.

Bob Doxey (775) 746-0221 • bobdoxey@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTMAS PARTY



FIRST ANNUAL
SIERRA NEVADA

CHRISTMAS PARTY

AT BRICKS IN RENO

DECEMBER 8TH

- ★ Fun
- ★ Food
- ★ Friends
- ★ Frivolity
- ★ And an Evening of Good Cheer

More Details to Follow.

For More Information

Contact Ray Rich

775-851-1439 • rayrich@sbcglobal.net



OCTOBER 2011



THE SILVER STAR

FUTURE EVENTS

Sierra Nevada Events

October 4: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 775-333-1083.

October 16: Fall Color Drive & Dine. Destination, Wolf Creek Restaurant, Markleeville, Calif. Meet at the Mercedes-Benz of Reno dealership at 10:00 am. For more info, contact Bob Doxey 775-746-0221.

November 1: Sierra Nevada Section Meeting, Mercedes-Benz of Reno. 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. Details to follow. For more info, contact Ray Rich, 775-851-1439.

Other Events of Interest

October 1-2: Reno SCCA Solo II Race, Stead Airport, Stead, Nevada. www.renoscca.org

October 8: Oktoberfest, Houston, Texas. Contact Chuck Wyatt, 281-469-7428.

October 21-24: Orange County Section Star Trek 2011, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact Linda & Steve Marshall, 949-683-5219.

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Franklin Curcio — Truckee

Wayne Davis — Reno

Jim & Kathy McCarthy — Reno

Bruce Reavis — Gardnerville

Sidney & Claudette Wyatt — Penn Valley

"Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead."

— Mac McCleary

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.

