

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • January 2020



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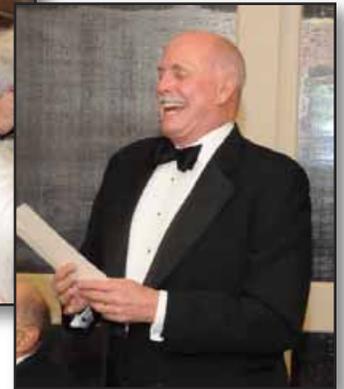
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UPCOMING EVENT
BOWLING NIGHT
 FEBRUARY 11TH
 SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS



Christmas Party

Fun was Had by All at Bricks for the 2019 Party

by Marcus Dodson, Editor



Christmas fun was had by all at this year's party, held at Bricks Restaurant in Reno, on Friday, December 20. It was a festive, jolly night filled with good food, good friends, and good fun. Familiar faces mingled with new, and the group of 36 members enjoyed cocktails before dining on an incredible spread of upscale food. Dishes included Caesar

salad, filet mignon, shrimp scampi, Alaskan halibut, steak and shrimp scampi, baked Alaska, and a chocolate glazed brownie.

Five lucky winners were given assorted gift cards to local businesses, which were all gratefully purchased with club funds by Judy Covert. These winners were Lansing Lidgard, Sharon Heck, Jeanne-Marie Bower, Sue Dodson, and Patti Settember.

(Continued on Page 3)

Complete List
 Of Club Activities
 On Page 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 7TH • 5:30 P.M.
 SANTA FE RESTAURANT (PAGE 7)

FEBRUARY 11TH • 3:00 P.M.
 BOWLING NIGHT (PAGE 10)



PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Presidential Postulation

Happy New Year From Your Club President

erving as President for the esteemed members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America will be my great pleasure. I look forward to getting to know everyone and listening to your thoughts and ideas for the greater benefit of the club. This is your club, and the Board of Directors is open to suggestions, ideas, and, most of all, volunteers. An organization without volunteers is boring, and our club is anything but boring.

We would love to help you plan and host an event. Ideally, an event consists of a drive to your favorite location, and since we are a car club, we'd like to participate in these drives monthly. Please reach out to the Board of Directors if you need assistance with ideas and plans. Many of us have hosted events before and we have great tips for a successful drive. Additionally, we also need people to volunteer to organize our monthly First Tuesday dinners. They are a fun and entertaining way to meet and greet each other every month, and it's so nice to see everyone come together.

The Christmas party at Brick's Restaurant in Reno was a big success and was once

again organized by Ray Rich. As always, he goes the extra mile to make sure everything runs like clockwork, and we had a wonderful evening. Judy Covert went shopping for the gifts we donated, and they were a big hit.

As we begin 2020, a big thank you goes out to LaVern Lipinski and Patti Settember for their continued service. LaVern is continuing as Treasurer and Patti as Vice President and Program Coordinator. Our illustrious Newsletter Editor is Marcus Dodson and his lovely wife, Christy, is the Secretary. She is keeping me organized, along with my wonderful husband, Vencil Wells, who is my wingman and the one person who keeps me focused and on task.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, we enjoy getting to know you and look forward to making memories together. January and February have some fun events on the calendar, and I hope you can join us. Please keep in mind that any help you can offer or volunteer for the club will benefit us all. Happy New Year!



Gail V Wells
President



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SIERRA NEVADA MBCA FORMER PRESIDENTS

Marc Dodson • 2011
Gary Dyer • 2012 & 2013
Sherry Avilla • 2014
Don Williams • 2015 & 2016
Gary Dyer • 2017
Bill Shepherd • 2018 & 2019

The Silver Star is the official 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.

Christmas Party

(Continued from Page 1)

Congratulations to these lucky folks and many thanks to Judy for her effort in keeping this Christmas party tradition going.

Before dinner, new President, Gail Wells, spoke to the group and gave her first speech as the club's new leader. She reminded folks that there are still spots available for 2020 First Tuesday dinners and monthly events. Next, Gail introduced the new Board of Directors and expressed thanks to the outgoing board members. Special recognition was given to Bill Shepherd for serving as a wonderful president for the previous two years.

The group also gave a much-deserved standing ovation to Ray Rich, who once again put together a beautiful Christmas party for the club. With his efforts, the club has an elegant, exciting annual event to look forward to each year. Special guest, Dave Rowe, the lead salesman at Mercedes-Benz of Reno, and his wife, attended the Christmas party and generously provided



the wine for the evening.

LaVern Lipinski was honored by Past President Bill Shepherd with the Member of the Year Award. LaVern has been an integral part of the club as treasurer for many years and always gives her all. Club members thanked LaVern for her time and effort and she was overjoyed with the recognition.

The next club event will be a First Tuesday dinner on January 7, 2020, at The Santa Fe Hotel and Restaurant in downtown Reno, hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. Those who are interested in attending need to RSVP to Christy Dodson at

christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777. In February, the club will host a bowling event at the Grand Sierra Resort. Check the club's schedule of events for more information and reservation details.

It was a wonderful evening for everyone who attended, and several new friendships were formed. As the days get longer and the sun comes out to shine, there will be more opportunities for drives so that members can continue to foster new friendships and nurture old ones. 



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Hobey's Steakhouse

First Tuesday Dinner Held at Hobey's Casino in Sun Valley

by Marcus Dodson, Editor

Extra fun was had on November 5, 2019, as Bill Shepherd, Past President, hosted a Tuesday night dinner at Hobey's Casino and Restaurant in Sun Valley, Nevada. Eleven club members came together at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy delicious food, as well as a pit stop at the fully stocked bar. Other Mercedes-Benz club members who attended included:

Gail Wells, President; LaVern Lipinski, Treasurer; Patti Settember, Program Director; Carlos Lucovich; Rosemary and Dan Clune; Roger Collins; Sharon Heck; Lisa Mitchell; and Lori Shepherd. This was a repeat visit to the North Valley's top spot, after an earlier visit in the year received glowing reviews from club members who attended. For over 29 years, Hobey's has been one of the favorite attractions for both North Valley locals and out-of-town guests.

Attendees ordered off the standard menu, which included shrimp appetizers, assorted salads, teriyaki chicken, lobster tails, Alaskan crab legs, salmon, halibut, assorted pastas, filet mignon, ribeye, and prime rib. Adventurous guests went all in for dessert, which included campfire smores, crème brûlée, cheesecake, brownie à la mode, bananas foster, and chocolate mousse. Wine, beer, soda, and cocktails were available to those who wished to imbibe. Everyone agreed the food was fantastic and no one was disappointed with the selection. In addition to the food being tasty, the presentation was top notch, with food coming out hot and beautifully arrayed. And, for being one the most delicious and friendly steakhouses in the area, the prices were incredibly reasonable.

Hobey's always has an energizing vibe throughout the steakhouse, bar, and casino, and dinner guests from the Mercedes-Benz club certainly added to the lively environment. After a few hours of socializing and dining, members headed their own separate ways home, eager for the next get together.

Tuesday night dinners happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested. For more information and to sign up to host a Tuesday night dinner, contact Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor, at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook.



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It's Electric!

Mercedes Joins the Party with the Impressive EQC 400 Electric SUV

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Three years after introducing its plan to enter the electromobility market, Mercedes-Benz has made true on its promise with the new EQC 400 4MATIC SUV. First mentioned in 2016 at the Paris Motor Show, Mercedes and electric car enthusiasts have eagerly awaited the arrival of the luxury electric car. Mercedes-Benz worked closely with Daimler AG, a global producer of premium cars, to bring the crossover SUV to market. As the first model under the new product and technology brand EQ, the Mercedes-Benz EQC has many innovative designs that are ultimately typical of the brand's trailblazing past.

Much of what the auto industry and luxury car enthusiasts love about Mercedes-Benz models can be found in the EQC. There is a conscious fusion of analog and digital components, as well

as a driving experience that is intuitive without taking away the fun of driving. With form comes function, particularly inside the vehicle, where the instrument panel is designed as a driver-oriented cockpit.

Mercedes-Benz engineers have enhanced noise comfort by incorporating rubber mounts at connecting points within the SUV's body. Furthermore, dual-pane front windows provide even more peace and tranquility by silencing outside noise. This thoughtfulness has led to an extremely quiet ride. Additionally, pre-entry climate control and optimized navigation round out the intelligent design. The Mercedes-Benz User Experience (MBUX) multimedia system, has numerous EQ-specific functions that enhance the interior setup. The MBUX system displays the car's range, state of charge, and energy flow, and can control and set navigation,

driving modes, charging capacity, and departure time.

"With its seamless, clear design, the EQC is a pioneer for an avant-garde electric look with trailblazing design details and color highlights typical of the Mercedes-Benz brand both inside and out," said Gorden Wagener, chief design officer, Daimler AG.

As expected, the EQC drives incredibly, thanks to an all-new drive system that features compact electric drivetrains at each axle. These drivetrains are configured differently, which reduces power consumption, increases capability, and gives the SUV the characteristics of an all-wheel drive vehicle.

Perhaps the most important part of an electric vehicle is the battery design. With the EQC, a lithium-ion battery with the energy content of 80 kWh provides the vehicle with its impressive

(Continued on Page 7)

It's Electric!

(Continued from Page 6)

power. The battery consumption is dependent on the type of handling, and Mercedes-Benz has the driver's back to assist with conservation. Five driving programs, including Comfort, Eco, Max Range, and Sport, give the driver options to conserve power when it's not needed.

An onboard charger with a capacity of 7.4 kW allows the SUV to be charged at home or at public charging stations. Predictably, charging at an official Mercedes-Benz Wallbox is faster, allowing the battery to be charged to 80% in 40 minutes. The car's range is between 276-292 miles, all without a single CO2 emission.

"EQ stands for electric intelligence, and represents Mercedes-Benz in its most progressive way," said Britta Seegar, board of management member, Daimler AG. "We are systematically using human-centered innovation by



incorporating intelligent services and networked charging solutions for our customers from the very start."

The Mercedes-Benz EQC 400 4MATIC, the German luxury automaker's first all-electric vehicle, will start at \$67,000 when it arrives in the United States in 2021. Three tiers will be available at launch, including progressive, premium, and advanced. The progressive and premium tiers offer two cu-

rated paint and upholstery options, while the advanced tier comes with three available selections. Overall, the Mercedes-Benz EQC is an impressive first endeavor into the world of electric automobiles. With safety features and luxury components that put the EQC in a class above competitors, Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts should be eager to see this innovative new model in the very near future. 

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LET'S EAT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

FIRST TUESDAY DINNER



TUESDAY *Basque* JAN 7TH

SANTA FE HOTEL RESTAURANT
235 LAKE STREET DOWNTOWN RENO

5:30 p.m.

RSVP

to CHRISTY DODSON

(775) 771-7777 Christy@DodsonPublications.com



ITEMS OF INTEREST

The National Automobile Museum

Sierra Nevada MBCA is a Proud Sponsor of This Great Museum Here in Reno



Here in Reno, we're lucky to be home to one of the top-rated auto museums in the world, The National Automobile Museum. Your Sierra Nevada MBCA Section is a proud sponsor!

What does that mean to you? Well, since your club is the sponsor of a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing on prominent display at the museum, all of our members get special benefits:

- Members get free admission into the facility, plus a 50% discount for any guests, during normal business hours.
- Members can request free guided tours of the museum, subject to the availability of the tour guides.

• Members receive a 10% discount at the National Auto Museum gift shop. Besides automotive books and car memorabilia, this also includes the full line of Meguiars Automotive cleaning products that are sold through the gift shop.

The museum has our member list on file, so just tell the cashier your name and that you're a member of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. You'll get your free museum admission and discount at the gift shop.

The National Automobile Museum is located at 10 South Lake Street in Reno, (775) 333-9300.

Sierra Nevada MBCA Name Badges

We encourage all members to wear their MBCA name badges to all Sierra Nevada section meetings and events. WHAT???

You don't have a Sierra Nevada 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 Sierra Nevada MBCA name badges for all to see?"

This one item will not only identify you as an official Sierra Nevada 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 Sierra Nevada MBCA name badge for a mere \$12!

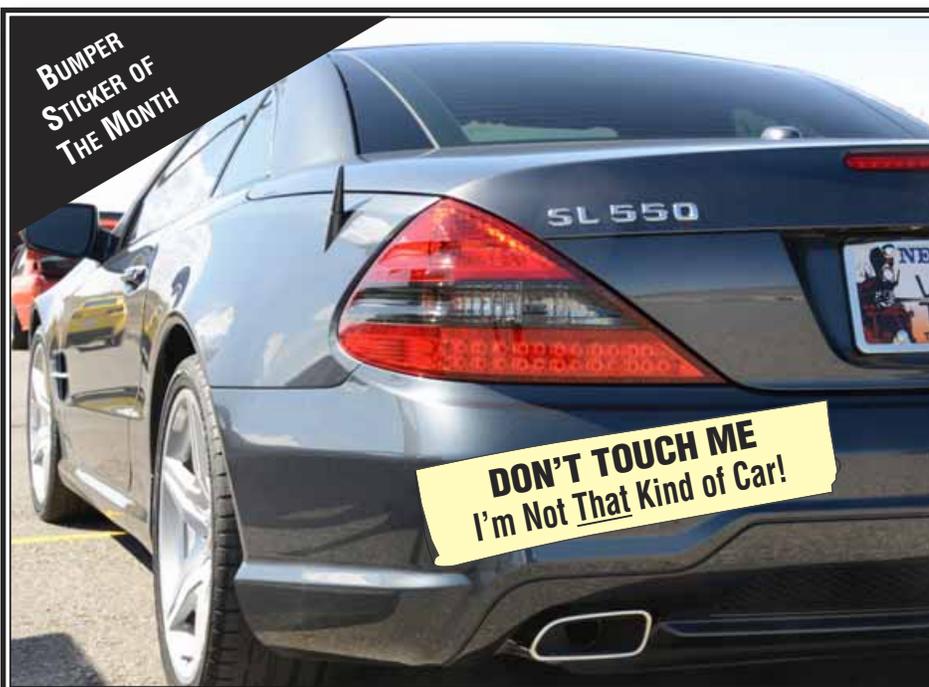
But wait, there's more...

If you order in the next ten minutes you can get TWO name badges for the incredibly low price of only \$24!

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 Sierra Nevada MBCA name badge identifying you as part of an elite group that has \$12 to spend.

Operators are standing by! Scan the QR code, order online by going to: www.mbc.org/name-badge, or you can call the MBCA office at (800) 637-2360.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.



MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA Board of Directors Meeting Location: Mercedes-Benz of Reno Thursday, November 7, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Directors present were: Gail Wells, President; LaVern Lipinski, Treasurer; Patti Settember, Program Director; Christy Dodson, Secretary; Vencil Wells, Board Member; Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor; and Bill Shepherd, Past President. Also present were Lori Shepherd and Carlos Lucovich.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Christy Dodson confirmed there was a quorum of directors present.

MINUTES:

Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter. The motion was seconded by Christy Dodson.

DIRECTORS/OFFICERS:

Bill Shepherd made a motion to propose the slate for officers. Vence Wells seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Marc Dodson would like to take over membership from Bill Shepherd. This was approved without a vote since it is not a Board Member position.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

LaVern Lipinski, Treasurer, presented the financial report and noted that the final funds came in through MotorSportReg for the members that used the service for the last two events. As noted earlier in the year, the Board has voted to suspend use of this service.

Discussion followed regarding the Un-

ited Federal bank account signatures. A bank meeting will take place at USFCU to sign bank cards of new Executive Board Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Christmas party collections will include \$5.00 from each member to cover gifts, and the club will add \$200.00 and match it for \$400.00. Judy Covert will do the shopping for the gifts, and there will be a few large gifts instead of many small gifts.

- Ray Rich showed up to the meeting and gave the Board an update on the Christmas party, which currently has 21 members in attendance. He spoke with the manager of Bricks to confirm details of the Christmas Party meal. Place cards will indicate the dinner option purchased, and the price of the dinner includes 30% for tax and gratuity. It was discussed that there was an issue with two members ordering a more expensive meal than they paid for at last year's Christmas party, and the Board would like to mitigate that. There will be a cash bar, and the Mercedes-Benz dealership will provide wine for the tables. Dinner will include a salad and dessert, and entree options will be Alaskan halibut, prawn scampi, filet mignon and shrimp scampi, or filet mignon.

- Advertising for the newsletter to help supplement the club budget was brought up. Marcus Dodson said he will work on getting advertisers now that he is officially the Newsletter Editor. He will also take pictures of club events for the newsletter.

- The Board voted to comp the Christmas party meal for Dave Rowe and his wife. He is the lead salesman at Mercedes-Benz of Reno and the Board agreed it would be a nice way to show appreciation for donating the wine, despite the club having a tight budget.

- Drawings for a free meal will be discussed at the January Board meeting once there is a better idea of the club's budget.

SECTION EVENTS:

- Patti Settember will try to set up a drive to Yerington, Nevada, in April. She will also continue to be the Program Director and help fill up the calendar with events.

- A new sign-up sheet will be passed around at the Christmas party and will allow members to reserve Tuesday dinners and monthly events.

- Marcus Dodson mentioned that Marc Dodson wants to host a two-night drive to Columbia Valley, California, June 26-28.

- Marcus and Christy Dodson will host a Tuesday dinner event in January.

- Vence and Gail Wells will host a bowling and dinner Tuesday event February 11th.

- LaVern Lipinski will host the August event at Bartley Ranch.

- The Board brainstormed many events and will continue to look into them.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, January 16th at 5:00 p.m. at the Mercedes-Benz dealership.

ADJOURNMENT:

Marcus Dodson made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

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@SierraNevadaMBCA

Stay up to date on
club news and events



**WELCOME NEW SIERRA NEVADA
MBCA MEMBER...**

Jeanne-Marie Brower — Genoa, NV



SIERRA NEVADA MBCA PRESENTS

BOWLING NIGHT

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 11TH
3PM

FEBRUARY
11

at Grand Sierra Resort Lanes
BOWLING 3-5PM • DINNER BUFFET 5:30PM

RSVP to Vencil Wells at
vencil@vencil.com or (818) 667-9745

EVENTS

Upcoming Events

January 7, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Marcus & Christy Dodson, The Santa Fe Restaurant, Reno, Nevada, 5:30 p.m. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777

January 21-26, 2020: Mecum Auctions Las Vegas Motorcycles 2020, South Point Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. www.mecum.com, (262) 275-5050

February 11, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Tuesday Dinner & Bowling, hosted by Vencil & Gail Wells, Grand Sierra Resort Lanes, Reno, Nevada, 3:00-5:00 p.m., dinner buffet at 5:30 p.m. To RSVP, contact Vencil Wells at vencil@vencil.com or (818) 667-9745

March 3, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Tom & Grace Jenny, Location To Be Determined

April 7, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

April 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive to Yerington, Nevada, for dinner & music, Date To Be Determined

May 5, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gary & Mary Dyer, Location To Be Determined

May 15-16, 2020: Hot August Nights Spring Fever Revival, Reno, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956

May 23, 2020: OldRide Eighth Annual Summer Salute, Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, Nevada. www.classic-chevysplus.com, (775) 813-5068

May 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive to Minden, Nevada, & Bentley Distillery Tour, hosted by Dan & Rose Clune, Date To Be Determined

June 2, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

June 20-21, 2020: Aces High Rally & Car Show, Heavenly Village, South Lake Tahoe, California. www.theshop-satheavenly.com, (775) 265-2087

June 26-28, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive to Columbia Valley, California, hosted by Marc & Sue Dodson. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

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IN CLOSING

Funny License Plates

Some Mercedes Owners are Just So Clever

by Marcus Dodson, Editor

(Editor's Note: The following story may have absolutely nothing to do with Mercedes or automobiles, but we feel it's interesting nonetheless. If you have a humorous or interesting story you would like to submit for this column, call us at (775) 997-9901.)

With summer over and those vacation road trips now just a fading memory, it's time to reflect back on some of the more creative license plates that adorn our highways. When we first saw some of these submissions, we thought they were a joke, and quite frankly, we couldn't use a few of them. I'm surprised that some made it past the DMV censors.

