

# The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • January 2021



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**JANUARY 5**  
**FIRST TUESDAY**  
**DINNER**  
 (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)



RAY RICH  
 GIVING OUT  
 PRIZES.

## Merry Christmas

### Club Members Celebrate the Season at Napa-Sonoma

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

**I**t was a chilly night in mid-December when members of the Sierra Nevada Section Mercedes®-Benz Club of America gathered at Napa-Sonoma South in Reno for the Annual Christmas Party, hosted by Ray Rich. Guests were delighted when they arrived, as Judy Covert and Karin Gash had beautifully decorated the wine restaurant's dining room. An elegant floral centerpiece adorned each four-person table, adding to the overall

cheerful atmosphere. By spacing the group at four-person tables, partygoers were able to enjoy themselves while still social distancing. Several guests donned embellished and bejeweled masks to add some flair to their party outfits.

This year's Annual Christmas Party was a departure from previous years, as the venue was changed from Bricks Restaurant to Napa-Sonoma South. A private waitstaff, which included two

(Continued on Page 3)

# PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



## Happy New Year

### Looking Back & Moving Forward

**I**t was wonderful to see so many friendly faces at our final event of 2020, our Annual Christmas Party. A big thank you goes to Ray Rich for putting on another beautiful holiday gathering, and the new venue at Napa-Sonoma South was spectacular. We all enjoyed delicious wine, too, thanks to Mercedes®-Benz of Reno and the generous donation. Check out more details on the evening on page 1 of this newsletter.

The New Year brings new opportunities and events with it. A COVID-19 vaccine is on the horizon, and I can hardly wait to start traveling again. Until then, I'll be hunkering down at my home, trying to teach a dog new tricks. For those of you wondering, I'm talking about my puppy, not Vence. We are hosting two upcoming events at the beginning of 2021. On January 5, we're gathering at Pietro's Famiglia for our First Tuesday Dinner. Then, on February 21, we've planned a fun night of bowling and dinner at the Grand Sierra

Resort Bowling Center. Email me at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) to RSVP.

The National Automobile Museum in Reno is debuting a new exhibit, *Low and Slow*, this month. The new exhibit will feature three examples of lowriders from the local community, along with lowrider bicycles, a pedal car, and a history of the lowrider movement. While it may be a departure from the cars that we're used to, it's always fun to learn about other types of cars. Plus, it's nice to support our local museum.

If you have an idea for a dinner or a drive, please reach out to one of the board members so that we can help you get started. There are plenty of opportunities in 2021 to host a daytime or nighttime event. As always, stay up to date on club events and news by following us on Facebook @SierraNevadaMBCA. Happy New Year!

Gail 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.



THE PARTY IN FULL SWING. BELOW: CLUB MEMBERS ENJOYING THE PRIVATE BAR.



# Merry Christmas

(Continued from Page 1)

bartenders, ensured that everyone's food came out at the same time and that the drinks were flowing. Many guests enjoyed pre-dinner cocktails, such as martinis, screwdrivers, and scotch, and each table had bottles of white and red wine to share.

Prior to the main course, Napa-Sonoma South delighted each table with a traditional antipasto plate, adorned with cured meats and specialty cheeses. It paired wonderfully with the wine selection and was a great way to start the dinner. The main

courses, of which 31 were purchased, were outstanding. Partygoers had the choice of chicken piccata, grilled cod, filet mignon, or filet and shrimp scampi, and all choices included salad, vegetables, and a dessert. The filet mignon was particularly impressive, sitting high and juicy on many members' plates. The chicken was cooked to perfection, and the cod was bursting with flavor. Dessert was the icing on the cake, with bread pudding and chocolate mousse pie as the decadent options to end the meal.

A special thanks goes to Ray Rich, who once again hosted the magical evening. He spends a lot of time each year preparing a wonderful Christmas Party, and it shows. Mercedes-Benz of Reno also deserves praise, as the dealership donated the wine for the evening. Prizes, which were purchased by Ray Rich and Judy Covert, were given out and lucky winners received gift cards to local restaurants and shops. It was a fantastic evening full of holiday cheer, good food and drinks, and great friends.

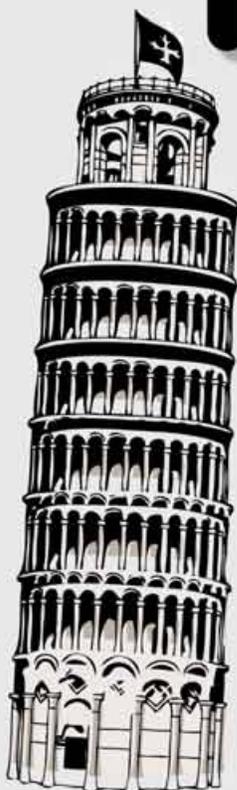


Rome



# ITALIAN DINNER

*Presented by the Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club*



**First Tuesday Dinner  
January 5 at 5:30  
Pietro's Famiglia  
Restaurant**

**834 Victorian Ave.  
Suite 200  
in Downtown Sparks  
order off the menu  
separate checks**



*Hosted by Gail & Vence Wells • head-count needed for restaurant*

**RSVP** to Gail TEXT CALL 307.763.1701 or [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com)



AN ARTIST'S RENDERING OF WHAT THE ALL NEW MERCEDES-BENZ SL COULD LOOK LIKE.

# Soft Top SL

## Next-Generation Roadster Gets Retro Cloth Roof

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

**I**n June of last year, we reported on the new Mercedes®-Benz SL Roadster, which was expected to hit dealership floors in late 2021. Since spy shots are all that have

been spotted of the new SL, it has been hard to report on concrete details about the car. Recent photos, however, have made it crystal clear that one thing is going to be incorporated into the new vehicle: a cloth roof.

So what? Well, it's actually a pretty big deal for SL enthusiasts. For the past 18 years, every new SL model has featured a retractable hard top. It became a ubiquitous characteristic of the luxury

(Continued on Page 6)

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A SPY PHOTO OF THE NEW SOFT TOP SL UNDER HEAVY CAMOUFLAGE.

# Soft Top SL

(Continued from Page 5)

car, often replicated by other manufacturers such as Cadillac and Lexus. Back then it made sense, because soft tops didn't possess the engineering dexterity that made them worthy of adorning a Mercedes-Benz SL. However, times have changed and automotive technology has advanced so much in the last two decades. Many manufacturers of convertible vehicles have cozied up to the idea of soft tops, such as Rolls Royce.

When designing a new vehicle, automakers have to take many factors into consideration. One of the most important decisions is what type of roof it will have. There are benefits and drawbacks to both hard and soft roofs. For convertibles, it becomes even trickier, as the roof plays an important piece of the car's structural integrity. For convertibles with hard tops, they are more solid and secure when the roof is attached on top, adding to the stability of the chassis. Also, hard tops provide quieter, more insulated drives.

Soft tops have their own unique qualities that can enhance a convertible in ways a hard top cannot. Cloth tops are lighter than hard tops, and take up less space in the trunk of the car when the roof is open. The mechanisms used to deploy the soft tops are simpler than those in a hard top, making repairs easier and less expensive. Plus, they usually take less time to deploy and put away than hard tops. While hard tops create a more insulated interior, raindrops hitting a cloth top are considerably quieter than when they fall on metal.

In our previous write-up of the SL Roadster, we mentioned that the new vehicle is much lighter than its predecessor. Now we can attribute much of that designation to its cloth top. In addition to its lighter weight, we can also expect a turbocharged 3.0-liter straight-six with at least 400 horsepower and a twin-turbo 4.0-liter V8 with more than 500

horsepower. A giant touchscreen, similar to its newer S-Class brethren, will be dominantly displayed in the center of the dashboard. Combining new technology with a retro soft top, such as the SL Roadster has, is a true marriage of ingenuity and familiarity. 

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# Mercedes EQ Line

## *New Era of Electrification for Mercedes-Benz*

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

**I**t's been a few years since Mercedes®-Benz unveiled its electric concept car line. The EQ line, which is the carmaker's first foray into the all-electric vehicle market, is a major investment for Mercedes and Daimler AG in all-electric technology, including in-house-made power packs. While the original release was pushed back, it hasn't tempered the excitement surrounding the launch of the luxury electric vehicles.

In fact, Mercedes is going to ramp up its EQ line of vehicles over the next 12 months, starting with the EQA electric crossover and the EQS electric luxury sedan. In 2018, Daimler invested

around \$600 million to manufacture the new EQA compact electric car at its factory in France. After launching the new GLA, Mercedes also announced that the EQA would not be a hatchback, but it would instead be a crossover vehicle similar to the body of the GLA. The specifications were impressive, including a powertrain consisting of a battery pack of up to 60 kWh for up to 200 miles, dual motors with over 268hp, and all-wheel drive delivering 0-60mph in around five seconds.

The new Mercedes electric S-Class, otherwise known as the EQS, will be arriving in the United States sooner than originally thought. Promised for the springtime in 2021, the EQS is expected

to arrive on American dealership lots by the summer. The EQS will remind you of an S-Class upon initial inspection. But, after a few moments, drivers will notice some major differences, including a roomier cabin, nearly silent ride, and self-piloting features. Expect it to have a similar price tag to the existing S-Class, which knocks on the door of six figures. Only concepts of the luxury electric vehicle have been released, but it is expected to have 469 combined horsepower, 560 lb.-ft. of torque, and should be able to reach 60 mph in less than 4.5 seconds.

"The EQS has already piled up far more than two million test kilometers from the heat of South Africa to the cold of Sweden," said Christoph Starzynski, Vice President Electric Vehicle Architecture, Mercedes-Benz. "The EQS will be the S-Class of electric vehicles. That is why it is undergoing the same demanding development program as any other vehicle that has the privilege of proudly bearing the three-pointed star. In addition, there were quite a few tests specifically for electric cars that cover important development priorities such as range, charging, and efficiency".

Next up on the docket is the electric G-wagen, which Daimler Chairman Ola Kallenius has recently teased. With

(Continued on Page 9)



A SPY PHOTO OF THE EQ LINE ON THE ROAD.



LEFT: AN EQ SUV CONCEPT. BELOW: A RENDERING OF WHAT THE EQS MIGHT LOOK LIKE.



## Mercedes EQ Line

(Continued from Page 8)

Jeep and Hummer recently making the leap to all-electric vehicle manufacturing, it goes to show that there isn't any car on the road right now that can't split

with gasoline. As electric mobility quickly gains traction as the globally preferred method of car ownership, especially in countries with laws dictating

a full conversion to electric transportation in the near future, Mercedes-Benz is smart to transition its popular fleet to new all-electric options. 



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# Precision Wheels & Restoration

*Alloy Wheel Restoration Specialist Goes Above & Beyond in Reno, Nevada*

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Did you take that last turn a little too tight? Scratches and gouges on your wheels are unsightly, and detract from the look of your Mercedes®-Benz.

Curb rash happens to the best of us, but thankfully Precision Wheels and Restorations can help you out. Elijah Zachary and his team can bring your alloy wheels back to a factory finish, as well as restore rims that have paint issues, such as chipped paint or flaking clear coat. Even if you don't have curb rash on your wheels, you can bring them into the shop to get them polished, which includes applying a clear coat that preserves the metal and offers extra protection from the elements.

With over 20 years of experience among the team, Precision Wheels and Restoration, located on Mill Street in Reno, is dedicated to providing high-quality restoration to keep your vehicle looking new. Specializing in alloy wheel restoration, owner Elijah is committed to using only the most reputable



products to ensure excellent repairs that will last. You may have come across Precision Wheels and Restorations online, perhaps while browsing Yelp. The company's perfect, five-star rating speaks to the loyalty and appreciation felt from Reno locals and travelers coming through the Sierra Nevada. Precision Wheels covers simple repairs, such as minor paint and wheel scratches, to more involved processes, including wheel balancing and vehicle wraps.

Looking for a color change? You can also change the appearance of your vehicle by changing the color of your rims, including a full black out or a custom color. Elijah offers a full line of professional automobile paint, allowing you to achieve any desired color.

One Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club member, Vencil Wells, has used Precision Wheels for many years and has high praise for Elijah and his team.

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## Precision Wheels & Restoration

(Continued from Page 10)

"I have been using Elijah's services for a long time," said Vence. "Back in the day, he used to come out to your location and recoat and polish your wheels. He's come a long way, and now he has his own shop where you can take your Mercedes-Benz and leave it for a few hours." In fact, Elijah began working on car restoration in early 2006, and by the following year he was a well-known presence in the local dealerships. In September 2018, Elijah opened his brick and mortar shop, and has seen tremendous success with his new business.

The steps to alloy wheel restoration are not complicated, but it does require high-quality craftsmanship and products to get the job done right. To remove scratches and get wheels looking brand new, Elijah first takes the wheel off and pushes the rubber down. Filler is added, rounded, and reshaped to

match the form of wheel. A quality auto paint and clear coat is applied, and it all cures within 20 minutes.

"The first time I used Precision Wheels to have some scratches removed, Elijah went above and beyond," continued Vencil. "Not only did he repair the gouges, but he also repainted and restored the faded Mercedes-Benz logo on the wheel cap. On our most recent purchase, my wife's 1987 SL, I needed someone to repaint the third taillight in the back of the car. Elijah was able to match the red paint perfectly, and he also touched up a few door dings while he was at it. We picked up the car the next day and the paint looked amazing."

Aside from aesthetic repairs, polishes, and repaints, Precision Wheels can help with alloy rim straightening, tire mounting, and balancing. If you're experiencing vibration while driving, a

bent rim can be the reason. Elijah's digital straightening service can bring your rim back into factory specifications without the hassle of replacing the rim. Also, Precision Wheels' road force balancer matches flat spots in the tire and rim, saving on costly suspension and alignment repairs. With Mercedes-Benz wheels often costing upwards of \$1,000 a piece, a preventative trip to Elijah is surely a cost-saving decision. He can usually repair and restore a wheel for around \$100.

In addition to wheel repair and restoration, Precision Wheels offers an extensive array of automotive cosmetic repairs, including paint touch-ups, polishing, accessory repaint, paintless dent removal, headlamp restoration, and ceramic window tinting. While we all do less driving in the winter, now is the perfect time to fix and polish those wheels. 



SIERRA NEVADA MBCA PRESENTS

# BOWLING NIGHT

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 21  
3PM

FEBRUARY  
21

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

RSVP to Vencil Wells at  
[uencil@uencil.com](mailto:uencil@uencil.com) or (818) 667-9745

# 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.

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.

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:

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## Video of the Month

### New Electric Car the Mercedes-Benz AA



A fake Mercedes-Benz commercial from an old *Saturday Night Live*. Julia Louis-Dreyfus' star power and some high-end commercial cinematography sell the two-minute parody as a real commercial, until the actress reveals

the vehicle is powered by 9,648 AA batteries. Someone at Mercedes-Benz enjoyed the joke enough to share it on Twitter along with a photograph of the car manufacturer's complimentary recharging station: a standard electrical outlet charger.

To watch the video and find out what happens, scan the QR code with your smart phone or [click here](#) to go to the video in your browser on your computer.



# EVENTS

January 5, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Vence & Gail Wells, Pietro's Famiglia, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701

January 21-22, 2021: The 2021 collector car auction season kicks off as RM Sotheby's hosts its 22nd annual Arizona sale on 22 January. On offer will be motor cars spanning the spectrum of the market including Pebble Beach and Amelia Island eligible show cars, as well as sports and GT cars such as Ferrari, Porsche, and Aston Martin

January 26-31, 2021: Mecum Las Vegas Motorcycles 2021. All Buyers, Sellers and Spectators are welcome to attend the Mecum Las Vegas Motorcycle Auction. For more information call (262) 275-5050

February 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy Dodson, location TBD. To RSVP, contact Christy at [christy@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:christy@dodsonpublications.com) or (775) 771-7777

February 7, 2021: Sacramento MBCA First Sunday Drive to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Willows, California. To RSVP, contact David Michael at (415) 939-9000

February 21, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Bowling Event, hosted by Vence & Gail Wells, Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center, Reno, Nevada. Dinner location is to be determined. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701

March 19-20, 2021: Overnight Event with Painted Churches & Spoetzl Brewery Tours, hosted by the Lone Star and Houston MBCA Sections, Shiner, Texas. To RSVP, contact Arno Pitzen at (512) 736-5203

March 28, 2021: Injured Police Officers Fund Classic Car and Emergency Vehicle Show. For more information go to [www.ipof.vegas](http://www.ipof.vegas) or call (702)-400-3749

June 20, 2021: 2021 Dream Builders Car Show. Join us on Fathers Day, Sunday June 20th as we pick up where we left off and attempt to raise \$100,000 in one year for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County. For more info go to [www.dreambuilderscarshow.com](http://www.dreambuilderscarshow.com)

August 13, 2021: Legends of the Autobahn National Event, hosted by the Sacramento MBCA Section, The Club at Pasadera, Monterey, California. To RSVP, contact David Michael at (415) 939-9000

August 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Picnic & Play at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, Nevada, hosted by LaVern & Carlos Lucovich, Reno, Nevada, Date TBD



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# IN CLOSING

## Dog Gone Funny!

*It Seems That This Issue has Gone to the Dogs...*

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter 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.)

**A** few issues ago, we had our ode to the cat (see *Cartoon of the Month* in November 2020), so I figured it was about time we pay tribute to our furry friend, the dog. Hope you enjoy...

