

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • January 2022



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JANUARY 4, 2022
FIRST TUESDAY DINNER
(SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS)



Christmas Party

Club Spreads Holiday Cheer at Glen Eagles in Carson City

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

One of the most anticipated events of the year, the Annual Christmas Party, took place in mid-December at Glen Eagles in Carson City, Nevada. Once again hosted by Ray Rich, the dazzling event was a wonderful way for the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America to gather one last time before the end of the year. Everyone showed up in their best attire, including fur coats, sparkling sweaters, and one very dapper tuxedo.

In total, 39 club members made the trek to Glen Eagles, a favorite local spot in the Carson Valley. The restaurant, which welcomed the club in June for a First Tuesday Dinner, was happy to host everyone again for the Annual Christmas Party. The restaurant staff supplied four large, ten-person tables, which was a cozy departure from the long, rectangular tables that are often used for events. The round seating arrangement meant that guests could converse with everyone at their table,

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PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



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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.

Happy New Year!

Cheers to a Joyful & Adventurous 2022



Happy New Year to all of my friends in the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America. I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season with friends and family. The Northern Nevada weather certainly caught up to us, with freezing fog and snow chasing us right into the New Year. I was happy to stay home this holiday season and enjoy the snow from my cozy home with Vencil and our dogs.

As a group, we managed to make 2021 one of the best years on record for our club and we look forward to doing it all again this year. Be sure to check out our calendar in this Newsletter for all of our upcoming events. We ended the year with another magical Annual Christmas Party, planned by host extraordinaire Ray Rich. He did a wonderful job, with the help of Judy Covert, of throwing a spectacular event full of great food, fun prizes, and holiday cheer.

This upcoming year is already full of exciting dinners, drives, and overnight events. In just a few days, you can join us at our First Tuesday Dinner of 2022 at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks. The club always has a great time at this casual Italian spot in Victorian Square, and I look forward to seeing everyone there. If you haven't already reserved your spot at the table, reach out to me at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

Is your New Year's resolution that you want to get more involved in your club? There are plenty of ways to get more involved. Just because our calendar is filling up with dynamic events doesn't mean there isn't a chance for you to host a dinner or drive. Reach out to one of the board members and we will help you get everything situated so you can host a fun daytime or nighttime event. Happy New Year to all of my friends.

Gail V. Wells

Gail Wells
President





Christmas Party

(Continued from Page 1)

instead of just the people adjacent to them.

Prior to the prix-fixe dinner, guests mingled and enjoyed cocktails in the private dining room. Glen Eagles provided a private bar, bartender, and wait staff for the elegant event,

and the service was spectacular. The room was decorated very nicely, including a festive fireplace and beautiful table decor. Lisa Mitchell brought chocolate and almond biscotti,

(Continued on Page 4)

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Christmas Party

(Continued from Page 3)

wrapped in homemade Mercedes-themed bows, for everyone to enjoy.

Red and white wine was served with dinner, and was generously provided by Mercedes-Benz of Reno. There were new faces at the party, as well as old friends, and the room was buzzing with



laughter and merriment. People's Christmas plans were the hot topic of the evening, with most club members

saying they were staying home for the holidays.

Attendees had chosen their dinners prior to arrival, and the options were filet mignon, king salmon, or chicken chardonnay. The filet seemed to be the most popular option, followed by the salmon. No matter what was chosen, everyone agreed that the food was delightful. All entrees included side dishes, as well as a salad, a cheesecake dessert, and coffee.

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 another round of applause for their generous wine donation. Prizes, which were purchased by Ray Rich and Judy Covert, were given

(Continued on Page 5)



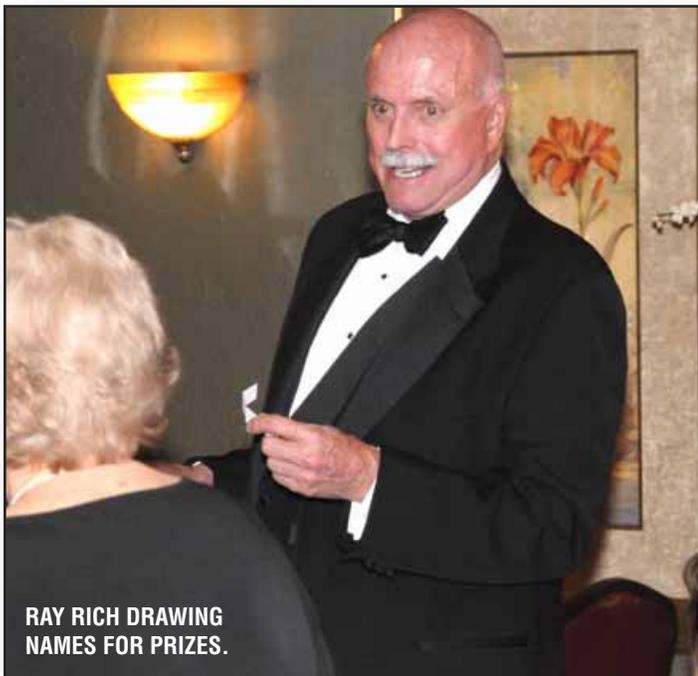


Christmas Party

(Continued from Page 4)

out and lucky winners received gift cards to local restaurants and shops. Marcus and Christy Dodson were presented with a lovely magnum bottle of wine as a special thank you for hosting two off-the-chart fun events this year. They always

uary 4, 2022, at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP to this First Tuesday Dinner, please contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701. 



RAY RICH DRAWING NAMES FOR PRIZES.

go above and beyond, and the club is very grateful for their wonderful events.

Overall, the Annual Christmas Party was a fantastic evening full of holiday cheer, good food and drinks, and great friends. The ride home felt particularly festive, as snowflakes glittered the night sky. Our next event is on Jan-



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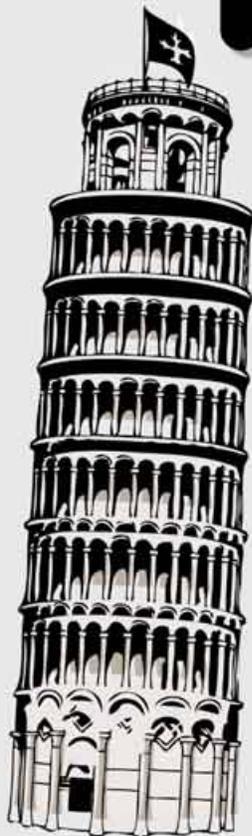
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ITALIAN DINNER

Presented by the Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club



**First Tuesday Dinner
January 4 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

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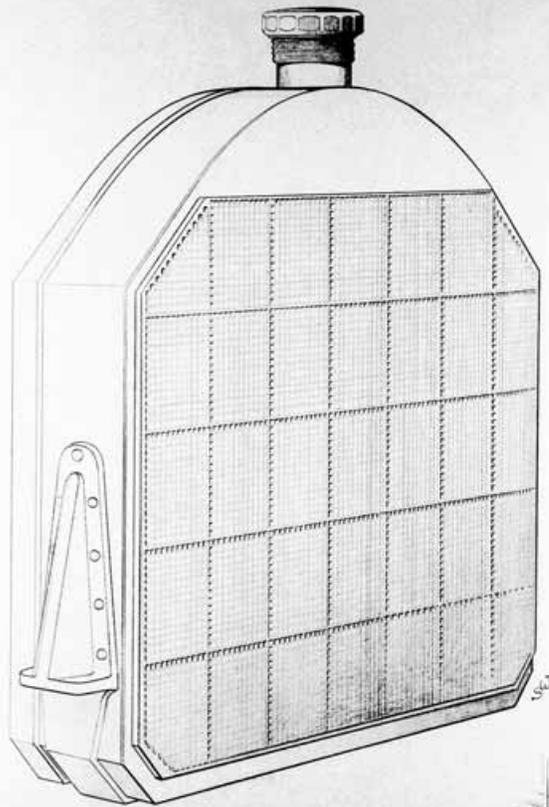


ILLUSTRATION SHOWING THE HONEYCOMB RADIATOR DEVELOPED BY WILHELM MAYBACH. THE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE COMPARED TO THE PRECEDING MODELS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO THE PARTICULARLY EFFICIENT HONEYCOMB DESIGN.

Honeycomb Radiator

Mercedes Innovation Revolutionizes Combustion Engine Cooling

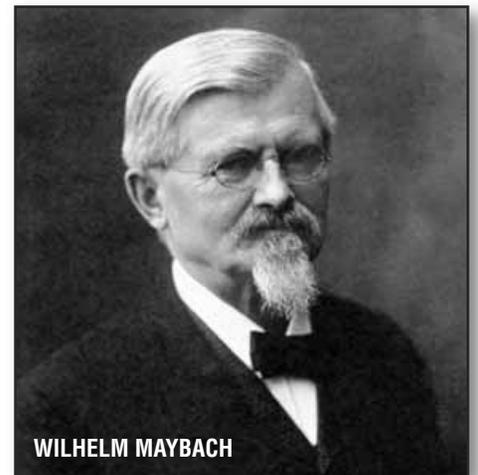
by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

After Carl Benz invented the first vehicle in 1886, the cars that came into production over those initial years did not have a closed cooling circuit. Instead, the cooling water that was heated by the engine simply evaporated. This meant that drivers needed to refill the water supply, sometimes frequently depending on the travel course, which quickly became an impractical part of owning a vehicle.

Legendary vehicle designer Wilhelm Maybach was the first to demonstrate the necessity of properly cooling a combustion engine in order to maximize its output. Maybach, along with Gottlieb Daimler, introduced a solution in 1897, which was a tube-based radiator. Maybach described it as, “an apparatus for cooling the water flowing around the cylinders of internal combustion en-

gines, consisting of a flat vessel traversed by a large number of tubes, whereby a stream of air generated by a suitable ventilation device passes continuously through the tubes and extracts the heat from the cooling water.” The new cooling system was used in 1898 in a car nicknamed the Phoenix, the world’s first road vehicle with a four-cylinder engine.

Then, in September of 1900, after tinkering with the design for a few years, Maybach took out a patent for the honeycomb radiator. This innovative design meant that when the car moved, the airstream was forced through more than 8,000 tubes mounted side-by-side, hence the honeycomb reference, as it passed through the radiator. This flow of air through the multitude of tubes effectively cooled the water that had been heated by the combustion action of the engine.



WILHELM MAYBACH

The honeycomb radiator was constructed as a protruding, vertical radiator and was first introduced to the world in the Mercedes® 35 horsepower in 1900. This was the newest high-performance car manufactured by Daimler, and is known as the first modern car in history. Several characteristics of this

(Continued on Page 9)

THE MERCEDES 35 HP WITH THE HONEYCOMB RADIATOR. MANY CONSIDER THIS TO BE THE FIRST MODERN CAR.



Honeycomb Radiator

(Continued from Page 8)

historic car are still seen today, including an elongated silhouette, high engine output, low bonnet, long wheelbase, gear-change gate, inclined steering column, and more.

Compared to the 1898 Phoenix horseless carriage, the water consumption in the 1900 35 horsepower Mercedes engine was reduced by half, from 18 liters to 9 liters per 62 miles. To put that in perspective, rather than requiring 2.25 liters of water to cool the engine, only 0.26 liters were needed over that same

distance. A small fan located behind the radiator further improved the cooling effect at low speeds. Because of this innovation, the new high-performance radiator solved the car cooling issue permanently. To this day, vehicle radiators are based on this design.

The honeycomb radiator was such a success in the Mercedes 35 horsepower that it also became a critical piece of the modern car, and a central characteristic of new models. Not only was the honeycomb radiator an immediate success

for the function of the car, it also became a defining stylistic element of Mercedes-Benz vehicles and the front grill remains aesthetically the same today.

At the Paris Motor Show in 1902, car magazine *Allgemeine Automobil-Zeitung* commented on the Mercedes 35, "The honeycomb radiator, which also influences the lines of the vehicle in some respects, was virtually unknown at the last Paris Motor Show, but has since become de rigueur for most French construction engineers." 

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Drive Pink

Getting to Know Your Local Mercedes-Benz Dealership

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

Located on South Virginia Street, Mercedes®-Benz of Reno sells premium new and used vehicles, as well as certified pre-owned Mercedes-Benz vehicles to residents of Northern Nevada and Lake Tahoe/Truckee, California. Opened in December 2003 and originally owned by Von Housen Automotive Group, the luxury car dealership was purchased by Winkel Motors in 2010. It has remained a respected supplier of luxury new and used vehicles in Northern Nevada and the surrounding area since its inception. Plus, the dealership has its own service center for those needing either quick fixes or major repairs. The Mercedes-Benz of Reno service center is reliable and efficient and is staffed with skilled service TechXperts and parts specialists that make your maintenance and repair experience easier.

In 2015, Mercedes-Benz of Reno was purchased by AutoNation, America's largest automotive retailer. With the most J.D. Power Dealer of Excellence honorees in the country and the only automotive retailer with over 500,000 five-star reviews, AutoNation associates deliver a customer experience that you can't get anywhere else. You can count on AutoNation to take excellent care of you and your vehicle, particularly at Mercedes-Benz of Reno.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic causing factory shutdowns and a chip shortage, auto production across the world has been crippled over the past two years. This has led to historically low inventory in the new car market, effectively driving more sales to used cars. Thankfully, AutoNation has

been able to pivot in these trying times and continue to provide top-tier products and service to customers. Bill Gates, arguably one of the savviest businessmen in history, is one of the largest shareholders of the forward-thinking company.

"I can't control what new-vehicle production is, but I can control how many pre-owned I buy," former Chief Executive Officer Mike Jackson expressed. "If any individual in America advertises their car for sale, we call them and we make an offer to purchase the car."

Jackson is an icon in the automobile industry, and for great reason, too. He recently retired with more than 20 years with AutoNation, but he got his start as a technician at a Mercedes-Benz dealership and served as CEO of the German carmaker's United States business. In 2006, Jackson announced that AutoNation would be reducing its orders from the three major vehicles manufacturers, including GM, Ford, and Chrysler, and would instead alter the company's purchasing to include more imported vehicles such as Mercedes, BMW, and Lexus. He is succeeded by Mike Manley, the former CEO of Fiat Chrysler and Jeep, who also got his start working in dealerships, before studying engineering.

AutoNation was founded in 1996 by Wayne Huizenga, an American businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Sadly, Huizenga and his wife, Martha, both passed away from cancer a few years ago. To honor their legacy, AutoNation continues to give back to charity, particularly to cancer-related organizations. Through the company's

DRV-PNK mission, and with the support of its customers, associates, and communities, AutoNation partners with cancer charities from coast to coast to raise and donate millions of dollars to cancer research and treatment.

Every October, associates from more than 300 AutoNation locations unite on DRV-PNK Across America Day to deliver thousands of comfort bags to patients battling cancer at treatment facilities. Also, AutoNation provides company-paid cancer insurance to every associate and their eligible dependents on their first day of employment. The company believes there are many ways to show that it cares about its employees and the community, and the DRV-PNK initiative is just one of the many ways it does that. AutoNation has raised and donated over \$30 million to drive out cancer, and will continue on it is cancer-fighting mission. If you want to help raise awareness about DRV-PNK, drop by Mercedes-Benz of Reno for your free, branded, pink license plate.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a lot of pressure on the automobile industry. From staffing shortages to global supply-chain interruptions, Mercedes-Benz of Reno has not been immune to pandemic-related challenges. "We are fortunate to have an incredibly innovative and hard-working team, from our managers to our salespeople to our technicians," said Steve Terhaar, General Manager, Mercedes-Benz of Reno. "We have been able to nimbly navigate the global supply chain shortage, and if we don't have a part in stock today, we try to get it as soon as possible so you can get back on the road." 🚗

Charles Kriss

In Memory of Our Fellow Car Lover

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Charles Kriss passed away December 22, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be greatly missed, especially by his fellow members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America.

Charles was born on April 26, 1936, in Los Angeles, California. From a young age, he was fascinated with cars, driving them from the age of 12. He first started driving his dad's Model T flatbed truck, and he would help tow people's cars



out of the mud back in the day before streets were paved. Over his lifetime he would buy, restore, and collect a variety of different makes and models. Those closest to him knew that his great love in life was cars.

Of course, that love came second to his wife of 51 years, Jan. The couple met in 1969 in California after Jan's friend invited her on a double date. He

picked her up in a Ferrari, surely trying to impress her, but she didn't even know what a Ferrari was. That didn't matter, though, because the pair hit it off and married the following year. Charles had a diverse and successful career as a dentist and businessman. He attended USC for his bachelor's, then University of Pennsylvania for dental school.

Charles joined the Navy and served as a Lieutenant Commander that was attached to the Marine Corps as a dentist. He served several years in California, Nevada, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Japan, and retired from the Navy after 20 years.

Following his time in the Navy, Charles began his civilian job as a dentist, opening practices in several cities over his long career. There was a brief pause in his practicing dentistry where the family moved to Incline Village, Nevada, and slowed down to enjoy some fun in the snow and sun. "He was a very creative guy and loved to have fun," said Jan of her husband.

Charles was able to channel that creativity into many different areas of his life, from his cars to his homes. The couple bought a French Normandy-style home on the cliffs of Laguna Beach, California, and inside was a painting of King Neptune that was in dire need of some TLC. "Every night after practicing his dentistry, he would work on this beautiful 15'-long fresco," said Jan.

Charles and Jan moved to Minden, Nevada, 20 years ago and purchased a handful of car washes. "He went from white collar, to blue collar, to no collar," joked his wife.

Charles was a wonderful entrepreneur, owning dental offices, rental properties, preschools, and more.

Over their long marriage, Charles and Jan amassed a collection of 20 cars, including a Ford Model A, 1967 Camaro, Ford Phaeton, Cadillac Seville, Mercedes-Benz, Firebird, and much more. They still own that Ferrari, too. "Mostly they came, and rarely they went," Jan lovingly joked of her husband's hobby. He even took driving lessons at Laguna Seca and the Porsche Experience Center in Georgia. Charles called his cars jellybeans, because they are such a colorful assortment.

Charles is survived by his wife, Jan; their three children, Jolie, Greg, and Julie; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



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February
Second Tuesday
Dinner

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The Grill

at quail corners

February 8
5:30 P.M.

The Grill
at Quail Corners

6520 S McCarran Blvd

in Reno

EVENTS



First Place!

Mercedes Wins 2021 F1 Constructors Title

by Christy Dodson, Secretary



At the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the Mercedes-AMG® Petronas F1® Team won the Constructors' Title for a record eighth year in a row. The final race of the season took place at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in December 2021. The World Constructors' Championship is presented by the FIA to the most successful driving team over the course of the season through a points system based on individual Grand Prix results.

Over the course of the 2021 season, Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas led the Mercedes team and won a total of nine races and accumulated a whopping 613.5 points. Ahead of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Mercedes had a 28-point lead over its competitors, including its closest rival, Red Bull Racing Honda. Hamilton has been behind the wheel at Mercedes since the start of its winning streak, and Bottas finishes this amazing season with Mercedes before departing for Alfa Romeo.

New regulations are coming in 2022, including a game-changing car that has been designed specifically to promote better and closer racing. Research shows that current F1 cars lose 35% of their downforce when running three car lengths behind a leading car, and 47% when one car length. The 2022 car has been developed by the F1 in-house team in collaboration with the FIA, and reduces the amount of downforce that is lost. Another striking change to the 2022 car is the over-wheel winglets and wheel covers, which send airflow through the wheels to increase downforce.

Bigger 18" wheels with low-profile tires will be used for the first time, which have been designed to reduce the amount the tires overheat when they slide. A totally new front wing shape will be introduced with the 2022 car, and its job is to generate consistent downforce and ensure that the front wheel wake is well controlled and directed down the car as narrowly as possible. With all of these exciting changes, spectators and F1 enthusiasts can guarantee a thrilling 2022 season.



January 4, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Pietro's Famiglia, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

January 14-16, 2022: Mesquite Motor Mania 2022, Mesquite, Nevada. www.mesquitecarshows.com, (702) 348-5512

February 8, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA Second Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, The Grill, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

February 23-27, 2022: Portland International Auto Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon. www.portlandautoshow.com, (503) 233-5044

March 1, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Mi Casa Too, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

March 10-13, 2022: Silicon Valley Auto Show, San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, California. www.svautoshow.com, (408) 437-7557

March 18-20, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, Shoreline Cottages, Fort Bragg, California. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

April 5, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Linda & Rick Iknoian, J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room, Gardnerville, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Rick Iknoian at iknoian@comcast.net or (559) 281-3598

May 3, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Lynn & Terry Nielsen, location to be determined. To RSVP, contact Terry Nielsen at bassetnielsen@gmail.com, (775) 747-9924

June 7, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Sharon Heck & Roger Collins, location to be determined. To RSVP, contact Sharon Heck at hikintahoe@aol.com or (775) 852-2001

July 5, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined. To volunteer to host this event, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

July 29-30, 2022: Hot August Nights, Virginia City, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956

ROAD TRIP

FORT BRAGG
March 18-20, 2022



Glass Beach
Skunk Train
Wine Tasting
Whale Watching

to RSVP & for more info contact Marc Dodson
(775) 771-1080 or marc.v.dodson@gmail.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.

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

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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.



Advertisement of the Month

Nap Time!



Tired of kids throwing tantrums at the grocery store, on the playground, or even at the dinner table? Most of us don't have kids at home, but we can laugh at this humorous fake commercial. (The content of this video does not necessarily reflect the views of the newsletter editor, the board, or the club.) To watch the funny joke advertisement, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF_nfazQaek&list=RDX637dAm2hHM&start_radio=1



IN CLOSING

Bad Design

Taking a Second Look at Design Choices

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.)



While a design may look good on paper, sometimes that just doesn't translate well when the final product is finished. Sometimes taking a second, or even a third, look at the design before proceeding is a good idea.

