

# The SILVER STAR



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



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## Delizioso!

### Club Members Welcome 2021 at Italian Restaurant

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

**I**n January, on the first Tuesday of 2021, 22 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America gathered at Pietro's Famiglia Ristorante Italiano for authentic Italian cuisine. A favorite restaurant of many local members, Pietro's is located in the historic Victorian Square section of Sparks, Nevada, and has been a fixture in the community since 2005. Per the current dining guidelines, club members were situated

at tables of four, with appropriate spacing between guests, and masks were worn when not seated. Due to the amount of tables needed to accommodate the group, half of the entire dining room was reserved for the Mercedes-Benz Club. Old friends got caught up on how the holidays went, while a few new faces made their introductions to the group.

It seemed as though every pasta imaginable adorned the tables, includ-

(Continued on Page 3)



**FEBRUARY 21**  
**BOWLING NIGHT**  
 (SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS)

# PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



## Love is in the Air *Head Over Heels For Family & Friends*

**T**his month, let's all take time to tell those who are special to us just how much we love them. Whether it's your partner, your friends, your pets, or even your car, let's try to share the love in February. I sincerely hope that 2021 has started off positively for all of you. Vence and I daydream about all the trips we're going to take as soon as we're back to our regularly scheduled program. This past year was long and challenging, and I am so grateful for my friends who helped me get through it.

Our January First Tuesday Dinner at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks was a raving success. The restaurant's owners and staff are always so friendly and accommodating, and the authentic Italian food is delicious. The weather has been pretty tame, recently, and Vence and I have enjoyed a few daytime driving trips. Late-winter snow might be keeping us at home in the near future, so we're getting outside now as often as we can.

We have a couple events planned this month, starting with a First Tuesday Dinner on February 2 at The Grill at Quail Corners, hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. Then, a week after Valentine's Day on February 21, Vence and I are hosting a dinner and bowling event at the Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center and California Pizza Kitchen. Please let the hosts of these events know if you'd like to attend, since we have to take special care to ensure social distancing at events for the time being.

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. Happy February to all of my valentines!

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.



# Delizioso!

(Continued from Page 1)

ing linguine, fettuccine, lasagna, capellini, penne, manicotti, and more. At least one club member got a generous veal chop, and a few others enjoyed chicken parmigiana. The wine selection included red and white options from Napa Valley and Italy, and the gracious servers were able to provide pairing recommendations. A handful of guests

finished the evening with Pietro's famous tiramisu, which is ladyfinger cookies soaked in espresso with mascarpone cream cheese and chocolate shavings.

Since the Mercedes-Benz Club group was quite large, a few guests received their meals closer to the end of the evening. After seeing other guests'

plates, those diners said, "non vedo l'ora," meaning that they simply couldn't wait to get their meals. Despite the spaced-out delivery of the meals, everyone had a wonderful time at their tables, enjoying the conversations while they waited. Everyone agreed, too, that the meals were worth the wait.

The next Tuesday Dinner will be at The Grill at Quail Corners on February 2, 2021, hosted by Christy Dodson. To RSVP, please email Christy Dodson at [christy@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:christy@dodsonpublications.com) or text (775) 771-7777. First Tuesday Dinners happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested. On February 21, 2021, Gail and Vencil Wells will host an evening of bowling and dinner at the Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center. To RSVP, email Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or text (307) 763-1701. For more info and to sign up to host a Tuesday Dinner or an event, contact Marcus Dodson at [marcus@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:marcus@dodsonpublications.com). Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook. 





February  
First Tuesday  
*Dinner*

# The Grill

at quail corners

*February 2  
5:30 P.M.*

Join the Sierra Nevada MBCA for a fine dining experience at a restaurant specializing in steak seafood & pasta. We will have our own private dining room with socially distanced tables. Order off the menu with separate checks.

The Grill  
at Quail Corners  
6520 S McCarran Blvd  
in Reno

RSVP to [Christy@DodsonPublications.com](mailto:Christy@DodsonPublications.com) or (775) 771-7777



# Mercedes Omnibus

*It's a Truck, It's a Bus, It's a Van... It's an Omnibus*

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

**B**y the mid-20th century, Mercedes®-Benz was established in many arenas of the automotive world: passenger cars, industrial trucks, and military vehicles. One

area that Mercedes-Benz lagged, however, was with light commercial vehicles. The smallest of its trucks in the 1950s was the Mercedes-Benz L 3500 range. During World War II, the German government put pressure on the

automaker to manufacture a small truck that could compete with the Opel Blitz, but Mercedes never created a similar wartime vehicle. Then, after the war, Volkswagen produced its popular

(Continued on Page 6)



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THE FLOOR FRAME OF THE OMNIBUS WAS WELDED TO THE BODY OF THE BUS, FORMING ONE CONTINUOUSLY STABLE UNIT.

# Mercedes Omnibus

(Continued from Page 5)

Type 2 panel van, proving to Mercedes that the light commercial vehicle category was not to be ignored any longer.

In September 1955, Mercedes-Benz launched its new L 319 Omnibus at the Frankfurt Motor Show. While the Volkswagen Type 2 employed a rear-engine configuration, and the Opel Blitz had an extended hood over the engine, the Mercedes Omnibus featured a unique aesthetic for the time. The new light commercial vehicle featured a more modern cab-

into the vehicle. In the 1960s, ski resorts were known to use the Mercedes Minibus as transportation from chalets to slopes, as well as collegiate sports teams for traveling to games. Pockets of German youth in the mid-20th century have fond memories of their school bus being a Mercedes Minibus, too.

(Continued on Page 8)



over design, which placed the driver at the front of the vehicle. While this layout gave the driver a good view and maximized load space in the rear, it did mean that the driver shared the cabin with the engine, which occupied the floor space between the driver and the passenger.

Speaking of passengers, the Mercedes O 319, or the Minibus variant of the L 319, could transport up to 17 people, in addition to the driver. Loading the vehicle could be tricky, however, since the doors were on the driver and front passenger sides, requiring the passenger seat to fold forward in order to climb

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# 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



THE MERCEDES O 319 VARIANT COULD TRANSPORT UP TO 17 PEOPLE, IN ADDITION TO THE DRIVER.

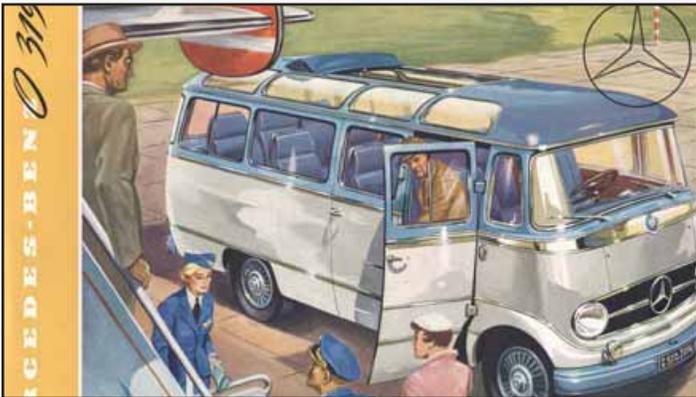


# Mercedes Omnibus

(Continued from Page 6)

The steel construction of the Omnibus allowed for very large windows without sacrificing safety. The floor frame was welded to the body of the bus, forming one continuously stable unit. A shift lever on the steering column was a precursor to the joystick in the Mercedes Sprinter line. Direction indicators and a horn were operated by means of a signal ring in the steering wheel. The instrument panel was bare bones, with just a speedometer and a coolant temperature gauge. Drivers

powered van as the L 407. In 1968, Mercedes created the Mercedes-Benz T2, also known as the Düsseldorf Transporter. This new successor continued to bridge the gap between Mercedes' smaller trucks and heavier commercial vehicles. 



needed to keep a mental note of how far they'd traveled on the 60-liter tank. Sleek options on a top-of-the-range O 319 version included roof edge glazing, a folding sunroof, two-tone livery, and luxury seats. Further luxury options included red velour upholstery covers, armrests, adjustable backrests, parcel racks, and chrome-trimmed ashtrays.

Originally, the Omnibus, in an attempt to cut costs, shared the same engine as the Mercedes-Benz 180D. Over time, however, van consumers were given the option to upgrade to more powerful diesel and petrol engines. Then, in 1963, Mercedes abandoned the L 319 designation and instead branded the diesel-powered van as the L 405 and the gas-



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# Mercedes Hyperscreen

*New Touchscreen Dash That's Almost the Size of Interior's Width*

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



You can leave your reading glasses at home, because at the CES show last month, Mercedes-Benz unveiled a massive 56" curved OLED touchscreen for its new EQS all-electric luxury sedan. Expected to go on sale later this year, the EQS sedan is a roomier, quieter S-class with an expected 300-mile driving range, two powerful electric motors, and autonomous-driving capabilities.

Lots of cars these days, especially electric vehicles, have touchscreen dashboards. The Hyperscreen, as Mercedes has aptly named it, leaves them all in the dust. It includes features such as a digital speedometer above the steering wheel, air vent controls on both sides, and a full infotainment system in the middle. GPS navigation, radio, and phone controls are all incorporated into the Hyperscreen and will be controllable via digital touchscreen and voice-command for both the driver and front passenger.

Are you someone who always calls your spouse on your way home from work? Do you like to listen to Led Zeppelin on your Sunday morning drive? Mercedes asserts that the Hyperscreen uses artificial intelligence to create a zero-layer feature, which learns the driver's and passenger's habits so the system can suggest those functions and reduce the need to scroll. This extends also to seat adjustments and heating preferences, as well as interior lighting. These user features are recognized via fingerprint, voice, and facial recognition.

"We merge technology with design in a fascinating way that offers the customer unprecedented ease of use," said Gorden Wagener, Daimler Group Chief Design Officer. The Hyperscreen employs eight CPU cores, 24-gigabyte RAM, and 46.4 GB/second RAM memory bandwidth. For those

who aren't spec geeks, that means it's really fast. Additionally, a multi-function camera and singular light sensor help the Hyperscreen adapt to ambient conditions.

(Continued on Page 11)

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# Mercedes Hyperscreen

(Continued from Page 10)

“The Hyperscreen is both the brain and nervous system of the car,” said Sajjad Khan, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz AG and CTO. “It delivers a tailored, personalized infotainment and

operating offerings without the occupant needing to click or scroll anywhere.”

When officially unveiled, the Hyperscreen will be the largest touchscreen display on the market, but it’s safe to

say that other carmakers will quickly try to catch up. While the size is undoubtedly impressive, it’s the elegant design and intuitive features of the Hyperscreen that set it apart from competitors. 

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**DINNER**

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# Mike's Automotive

## Local Repair Shop Provides Reliable & Honest Service

by Vence Wells, Board Member, Sierra Nevada Section of the MBCA

**I**n 2010, I purchased a 2004 Toyota Tundra 4x4. I know, I know, we're the Mercedes®-Club, but until they have a pickup option, my Toyota will have to do. After I purchased it, I took it to one of our local Toyota dealerships and asked about getting the fluids changed. They quoted \$630, which included a \$60 hazardous materials disposal fee. I was astonished and told them that price was simply too much.

On my way home every day, I would pass this nice auto repair shop named Mike's Automotive on Lemmon Drive in Reno. After my interaction with the Toyota dealership, I decided to stop at Mike's and inquire about changing the fluids. Not only was the price much better, at \$200, but they even did the fluid change right then and there. Needless to say, I became a loyal customer of Mike's



Automotive that very day.

Since then, I have used Mike's for many different services, including smog tests. Mike and his team changed the serpentine belt on my CL500 and also repaired the universal joints, differential mounts, and transmission mounts. They also replaced the leaking

transmission gasket and engine valve cover gasket on Gail's 560SL.

You can find Mike's business information in our Newsletter, and I can vouch that he is honest and reliable. Whenever something on one of my cars needs to be repaired or replaced, Mike is the first person I call. 



**MARCH 18**  
**DINNER & DRIVE**



# **GOLD HILL HOTEL**

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# 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:

- ✓ 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.mbca.org/name-badge](http://www.mbca.org/name-badge), or you can call the MBCA office at (800) 637-2360.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.



## Photo of the Month

### New Mercedes Spy Photo



The new car, seen here, seems to have high-quality aerodynamicists and some sort of new futuristic supercharger. We can only speculate as to the horsepower of this beautiful car, as Mercedes®-Benz is mute on its stats and launch date.

# MEETING MINUTES

# EVENTS

## Sierra Nevada MBCA Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Pietro's Famiglia  
Tuesday, January 5, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Directors present were: Gail Wells, President; Christy Dodson, Secretary; LaVern Lucovich, Treasurer; Patti Lamski, Program Director; Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor; and Vencil Wells, Board Member. Also present was 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. Patti Lamski seconded the motion.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

LaVern Lucovich presented the Treasurer's Report. The Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America has \$3,973.02 in its bank account. This total amount includes the annual fees that are collected from businesses that advertise in the Newsletter. Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Christy Dodson seconded it.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Marcus Dodson read the Membership Report that was submitted by Marc Dodson, Membership Chair. As of January 2021, the club has 85 members. This total includes three new members and two transfer members from other regional clubs. Three members expired. Vencil Wells made a motion to approve the Membership Report and Christy Dodson seconded it.

### OLD BUSINESS:

☛ Ray Rich did a fantastic job on the Christ-

mas Party and the Board of Directors thanks him very much for all of his hard work.

☛ The Board of Directors thanks Marcus Dodson for continuously obtaining ad contracts for the Newsletter, which brings in considerable revenue for the club.

### NEW BUSINESS:

☛ Marcus Dodson sold a total of \$2,550.00 in ad contracts for the Newsletter.

### SECTION EVENTS:

☛ The First Tuesday Dinner in February will be hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson on February 2. The location is TBD.

☛ Gail and Vence Wells will host a Bowling and Pizza Event on February 21 at the Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center and California Pizza Kitchen.

☛ The First Tuesday Dinner in March will be hosted by Tom and Grace Jenny on March 2. The location is TBD.

☛ The First Tuesday Dinner in April will be hosted by Patti and Gene Lamski on April 6. The location is TBD.

☛ Patti and Gene Lamski will host a drive to Yerington, Nevada, in April.

☛ Christy and Marcus Dodson will potentially host a drive in May to the Bently Heritage Distillery in Minden, Nevada.

☛ Gail and Vence Wells will potentially host a drive in June to Austin, Nevada.

### NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 6, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. before the First Tuesday Dinner. The location is TBD.

### ADJOURNMENT:

Vence Wells made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Marcus Dodson seconded it. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

February 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, The Grill at Quail Corners, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at [christy@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:christy@dodsonpublications.com) or (775) 771-7777

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

March 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Grace & Tom Jenny, Siu Korean BBQ. To RSVP, contact Tom Jenny at [tomjenny88@yahoo.com](mailto:tomjenny88@yahoo.com) or (818) 648-4107

March 18, 2021: Sierra Nevada Drive & Dinner, hosted by Marcus Dodson, Gold Hill Hotel. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at [marcus@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:marcus@dodsonpublications.com) or (775) 997-9901

April 6, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Patti & Gene Lamski, Location TBD. To RSVP, contact Patti Lamski at [topat83@aol.com](mailto:topat83@aol.com) or (770) 852-1522

April 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive to Yerington, Nevada, hosted by Patti & Gene Lamski, Date TBD. To RSVP, contact Patti Lamski at [topat83@aol.com](mailto:topat83@aol.com) or (770) 852-1522

May 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive to Bently Heritage Distillery, Minden, Nevada, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Date TBD. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at [christy@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:christy@dodsonpublications.com) or (775) 771-7777

June 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive to Austin, Nevada, hosted by Gail & Vence Wells, Date TBD. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701

# IN CLOSING

## Be My Valentine

### *It's Probably Not a Good Idea to Purchase These Gifts*

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.)



With Valentine's Day right around the corner, we happened to come across these funny gifts to celebrate the day of love. If you want to snuggle with your valentine this February, we suggest you steer

clear of these gifts.

