

The SILVER STAR



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

Sierra Nevada

Newsletter Editor
Marcus Dodson
1840 Wendy Way
Reno, Nevada 89509
(775) 997-9901
marcus@dodsonpublications.com
sierranevada.mbcna.org
facebook.com/SierraNevadaMBCA

MBCA National Office
(800) 637-2360 • www.mbcna.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Getting Into the Spirits	1
President's Message	2
Officers	2
May Dinner Event	4
Taking Precautions	5
Local Food & Fun	7
Items of Interest	9
Section Events	10
In Closing	11

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER
MAY 6TH
SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS



Getting Into the Spirits

Beautiful Spring Drive to Frey Ranch Distillery in Fallon

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

It was a clear spring morning in March when the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America took a drive to Fallon for a tasting and tour at the Frey Ranch® Estate Distillery. This wonderful driving event was hosted and led by Gail and Vencil Wells.

A total of 17 members in eight separate Mercedes-Benz® vehicles enjoyed an unpredictable and exciting drive to Fallon. This was the first drive of the year, and many members cleared off the dust and removed the mothballs from their cars to get ready for the excursion. The club left from the Mercedes-Benz of Reno dealership at 10:00 a.m. Neither

snow nor rain nor sleet nor wind nor one overturned semi-truck deterred our members as they made their way through Washoe Valley. Thankfully, once the convoy made it half way to Fallon, the clouds parted and the sunshine came out to play. There was beautiful scenery including the lovely Lahontan Reservoir and two massive roundabouts out in the middle of nowhere. Members on the drive even got to play "Dodge the Tumbleweeds."

Our club's Carson City contingent, LaVern Lipinski and Carlos Lucovich, met the rest of the group in Fallon at the Courtyard Cafe and Bakery for lunch. A beloved Fallon staple, the Courtyard

(Continued on Page 3)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Keep Driving *Staying Connected & Remaining Positive*

Next to family members, our friends are often the most important people in our lives. During this time of social distancing, we will miss gathering together for our events, breaking bread together, and enjoying lively conversation.

We all have our own ways of handling this trying situation, and many of us have been experiencing various challenges, whether they be emotional, financial, or physical. This is a time to stay connected with friends via phone calls, emails, and texts.

It's also important to find some joy during this time. Personally, getting outside and going for a walk is the best medicine. Would somebody please turn off the wind machine though? If you're able, get outside and go for a walk or a leisurely drive. Try out a new route, and if you like it, share it with the club! Find us on Facebook @SierraNevadaMBCA for updates and to keep in touch.

This pandemic and its repercussions have changed our world, but practicing patience and resilience while things are out of our control is so important. I'm sure that by the time you're reading this, the situation will have changed again, hopefully for the better.

There are many months left in the year, and we are definitely looking forward to seeing everyone again. Thanks to everyone who participated in the drive to Fallon, Nevada, for a tasting at the Frey Ranch Estate Distillery. It was a wonderful day trip with lots of adventure and good spirits. Stay safe and well.

Gail V. Wells
President

SIERRA NEVADA

Attn: Marcus Dodson
1840 Wendy Way
Reno, Nevada 89509
(775) 997-9901
marcus@dodsonpublications.com
sierranevada.mbc.org
facebook.com/SierraNevadaMBCA

SIERRA NEVADA OFFICERS

Gail Wells, President
(307) 763-1701
blackswan342@gmail.com

Patti Settember, Vice President & Events
(770) 852-1522
topat83@aol.com

Christy Dodson, Secretary
(775) 771-7777
christy@dodsonpublications.com

LaVern Lipinski, Treasurer
(775) 882-4697
lipinski3541@gmail.com

Vencil Wells, Director-at-Large
(818) 667-9745
vencil@vencil.com

Bill Shepherd, Immediate Past President
(775) 826-0388
billshep@sbcglobal.net

Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
(775) 997-9901
marcus@dodsonpublications.com

Marc Dodson, Membership Chair
(775) 771-1080
marc.v.dodson@gmail.com

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

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Getting Into the Spirits

(Continued from Page 1)

Cafe and Bakery offered guests sandwiches, salad, wraps, soup, quiche, burgers, pasta, and quesadillas. The provisions were surely a welcome sight after the thrilling drive.

After fueling up with lunch, it was a short eight-mile drive to the Frey Ranch Estate, a sprawling 1,200-acre winery and distillery in Churchill County, owned by Colby and Ashley Frey. True Nevadans, with five generations of family from the Silver State, the Freys employ a small, talented workforce that produces their award-winning spirits. On the lush farm,



each of the Frey Ranch spirits are grown, distilled, matured, and bottled onsite. Frey Ranch is one of the only estate distilleries and wineries in the world, meaning that every stage of the wine and spirit-making process happens on the premises. The Frey family has trademarked it as being "from ground to glass."

Club members were treated to a tasting and were delighted with the hand-crafted whiskeys and spirits. The tasting included red and white wines, gin, absinthe, brandy, vodka, and Frey Ranch's flagship straight bourbon whiskey. After the tasting the group got a private viewing of the distillery from tour guide Andy Reimold, which included the stills, fermentation area, and massive barrel room where the

bourbon is aged. It was a wonderful get-together and it revved everyone's engines for future club drives.

There are opportunities to host a club drive for anyone who is interested. For more information or to sign up to host a drive, contact Marcus Dodson 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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Taking Precautions

Mercedes-Benz Halting Production at Two Plants Amidst COVID-19 Panic

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

The global COVID-19 crisis has shaken the automobile industry. In accordance with directives from the World Health Organization and appropriate national communicable disease institutes, many car manufacturing plants have ceased operations in areas of their factories in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect workers.

Mercedes-Benz® is temporarily suspending operations at its plants in Ladson, South Carolina, and East London, South Africa, joining a long list of car makers ceasing production. According to a spokesperson, the two facilities are implementing this change in an attempt to protect their team members. In conjunction with the production shutdown, Mercedes-Benz has taken other preventative measures into effect, including a ban on external visitors and travel, social distancing, and increased cleaning cycles throughout the facilities. “As part of our production shutdown, we have implemented a step-by-step disinfection of the entire facility,” said Alyssa Bean, Communications Specialist, Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC.

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC, is the plant in South Carolina that produces

AERIAL VIEW OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA PLANT.



Sprinter Vans for the United States and Canadian markets under the brands Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner, as well as the midsize Mercedes-Benz Metris Vans. In 2018, Mercedes-Benz Vans invested \$500 million to transform the small existing reassembly operation into a full-scale body, paint, and assembly facility. The team grew nearly ten-fold with that expansion, with a total projection of 1,300 team members in the next few years. Mercedes-Benz Vans supports the local community in many ways, including initiatives related to education, environment, and health. The company supports the Charleston Promise Neighborhood, the South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtle Care Center, and the Cooper River Bridge Run. Re-

cently, it has announced support of the International African American Museum’s Studio Time workspace. Employees and the leadership team also take time to serve the community through special volunteer projects and donation drives throughout the year.

Mercedes-Benz Cars also produces the next generation of the C-Class in South Africa. A recent investment included the construction of a new paint shop and a new body shop, an upgrade of the assembly shop, and new logistic warehouses. The new workshops incorporate environmentally friendly and state-of-the-art technologies. The Mercedes-Benz South Africa group of companies’ history in South Africa dates

(Continued on Page 6)

Precautions

(Continued from Page 5)

back to 1948 when East London was chosen as the home of the car distributor's assembly. Over the years, the company has changed and grown to be one of the largest automotive groups in the



country. Mercedes-Benz South Africa markets and finances Mercedes-Benz passenger cars, smart cars, trucks, buses, and vans throughout South Africa.

For many of those in administrative



roles at Mercedes-Benz, work will continue as usual. This includes an ongoing assessment of global supply chains, which have struggled throughout the worldwide crisis. In addition to helping protect its workforce, Mercedes-Benz is financially preparing for a period of temporary lower demand of its automobiles. The Mercedes division of Daimler saw increased car sales in 2019, surpassing the record level of unit

sales in the previous year. Key figures in 2020 might show a slowdown due to harsh market conditions as a result of the COVID-19 economic disruption, but it is still too early to tell.

The situation is being closely monitored and assessed daily by Mercedes-Benz leadership. Full operations will resume when the situation improves and it is deemed safe to reinstate staff on the production line. 

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Local Food & Lively Fun

Dinner & Drinks at Homegrown Gastropub in Reno

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In early March, 21 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America gathered at Homegrown Gastropub in Reno, Nevada. Known as the go-to spot for locally sourced, organic cuisine in the Biggest Little City, Homegrown Gastropub did not disappoint on this First Tuesday Dinner event, hosted by Tom and Grace Jenny.

Homegrown Gastropub has an interesting history, dating back to its inception as a food truck. In addition to supporting the local community by sourcing ingredients from Northern Nevada farms, the owner of the restaurant is a strong believer in the healing power of organic food. You won't find greasy-spoon cafe dishes here, but you will find carefully crafted comfort food meant to heal and inspire. The beef comes from Bently Ranch in Minden, Nevada, and several vegetables are harvested in Dayton, Nevada.

Homegrown Gastropub is an intimate, inviting space that sits right off of Virginia Street. Before congregating in the private dining room, club members enjoyed cocktails, wine, and beer at the bar in the beautiful front room of the restaurant. Ornate bronze chandeliers hang from the copper ceiling, and rich, green flora create a cozy vibe. Oversized, tufted benches and armchairs surround the dark wood tables, inviting guests to sit down and stay awhile.

Guests braved the seemingly never-ending construction in Midtown in order to eat at this hotspot. "Where did you park?" echoed throughout the restaurant as club members arrived for the evening. Some club members decided to live dangerously and parked in the coned-off spots meant for the daytime construction equipment. Aside



from lamenting the lack of accessible parking, everyone had a great time and enjoyed eclectic and adventurous cuisine. Dishes at the table included steak salad, falafel, ribs, buttermilk fried chicken, tacos, burgers, ribeye steak, pizzas, and hand-cut fries. The hand-crafted cocktails were flowing, including mango margaritas, strawberry gimlets, and berry sangrias. They took a few minutes to come out, but they were definitely worth the wait. After a few hours of socializing and dining on

(Continued on Page 8)



Local Food & Lively Fun

(Continued from Page 7)

local fare, members headed their separate ways, eager for the next get together.

The next First Tuesday Dinner event will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, because the first Tuesday in May is Cinco de Mayo. First Tuesday Din-

ners happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested. For more information and to sign up to host a First Tuesday Dinner, contact Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor, at marcus@dodson-publications.com or (775) 997-9901.

Don't forget that our next outing, a Mexican Fiesta, for dinner and fun, hosted by Gary Dyer, will take place May 6th, 2020, at MiCasa Too. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook. ☐

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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. 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!

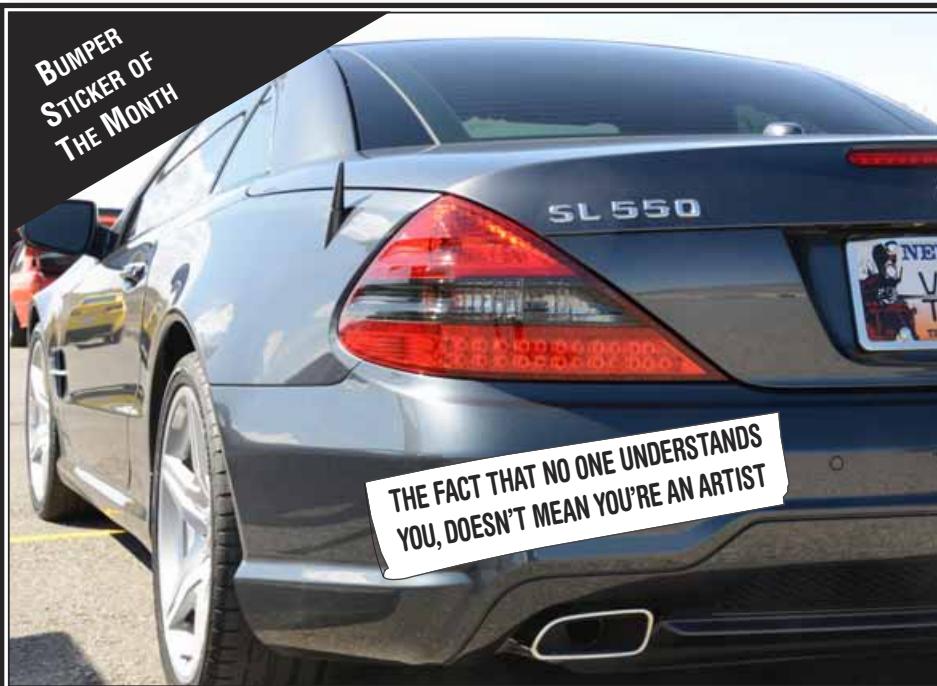
But wait, there's more...

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.



EVENTS

May 6, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Gary & Mary Dyer, MiCasa Too Restaurant and Cantina, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gary Dyer at gtdtahoe@gmail.com or (775) 250-2672

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.classicchevysplus.com, (775) 813-5068

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

June 2, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Terry & Lynn Nielsen, Location To Be Determined

June 20-21, 2020: Aces High Rally & Car Show, Heavenly Village, South Lake Tahoe, California. www.theshopsatheavenly.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

July 7, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by LaVern Lipinski & Carlos Lucovich, Location To Be Determined

July 11, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Summer Backyard Party, Marcus & Christy Dodson's home, 1840 Wendy Way, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777

July 31-August 1, 2020: Hot August Nights, Virginia City, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956

August 4, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Bill & Lori Shepherd, Location To Be Determined

August 4-9, 2020: Hot August Nights, Reno, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956

August 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Picnic & Play at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, hosted by LaVern Lipinski & Carlos Lucovich, Reno, Nevada, Date To Be Determined

September 1, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Tim & Katherine Wellesley, Location To Be Determined

October 6, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Karen & Lloyd Gash, Napa Sonoma Plumbate, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Karen Gash at karinmrich1946@icloud.com or (775) 851-1439



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IN CLOSING

Making Light of the Situation

Having Humor in These Trying Times is a Good Thing

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.)

The Coronavirus is spreading fast, and we're all stuck at home whether we like it or not. In these trying times, it's good to have some humor. If you can't laugh at yourself, well...



in an unsettling reversal of my teenage years, I am now yelling at my parents for going out

♡ 203K 12:55 AM - Mar 16, 2020

JUST HEADING DOWN
TO THE SHOPS..
ANYONE NEED ANYTHING?



Day 1 of quarantine: I'm going to take this as an opportunity to improve my health

Day 2 of quarantine: Due to personal reasons, I am eating a lasagna in my shower

♡ 360K 9:08 PM - Mar 18, 2020

**Ever wonder
what the
"Extra"
stands for?**



People normally



People during quarantine



Has anybody let the Amish know what's going on yet?



I still haven't decided where to go for Easter



debating between the bedroom or the living room

CORONA BEER CHANGES THEIR NAME TO AVOID ASSOCIATION WITH THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK

