

The SILVER STAR



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



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JUNE 2, 2021

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER

(SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)



'Que for Me & You

Barbecue Night at Red's Old 395 Grill in Carson City

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Not many things are more eclectic than our wonderful club, but Red's Old 395 Grill in Carson City, Nevada, is a close second. Upon first walking into the restaurant, guests are dazzled by the incredible decor, which includes hundreds of paintings, taxidermied animals, a 1923 Monarch steamroller, and a whole antique wagon hanging from the ceiling. Out front, a massive water tower stands tall, luring hungry travelers off of the nearby highway and into the iconic restaurant.

In early May, Lynn and Terry Nielsen hosted the monthly First Tuesday Din-



ner, and 27 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America gathered at Red's Old 395 Grill. The restaurant management was able to provide the club with its own private dining room, which was aptly nicknamed the Mercedes Room, due to a large painting of

(Continued on Page 3)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Let's Get Together

Club Calendar Packed with Summer Events

I'm hesitant to say that things are back to normal, but there definitely has been a shift in the air recently. Friends are getting together, events are happening all over town, and the prospect of travel is once again on the table. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of you at our recent events, and I hope to see more friendly faces at our summer get-togethers. Again, if you have any ideas for a future dinner or drive, please reach out. We have some very dynamic members in the club, and I'm sure you all have some great ideas.

Our First Tuesday Dinner in May at Red's Old 395 Grill, hosted by Lynn and Terry Nielsen, was a memorable evening. The food was amazing, especially for those that were daring enough to order the 'Que for Two. A week later, Vencil and I hosted an adventurous drive out past Fallon to Cold Springs Station Resort, with an interesting stop at The Shoe Tree. Sometimes it can be nice to get away from the hustle and bustle for the day and explore the high desert.

Keep a close eye on the calendar as we head into the summer months, for we have some spectacular events planned. These include a sunset cruise at Lake Tahoe in June, the Annual Summer Backyard Party at the Dodson's home in July, the Annual Bartley Ranch Picnic and Play in August, and much more. Please be sure to RSVP to any event you would like to attend, so that the hosts can plan accordingly. For the July Lake Tahoe cruise, you must RSVP to me, then purchase tickets from the cruise company by calling (775) 588-1881. Tomorrow, Vencil and I are hosting a First Wednesday Dinner at Glen Eagles in Carson City, and we look forward to seeing everyone.

This time last year, the club didn't have any events planned and we were so uncertain of the future. It's such a wonderful feeling to once again be able to see my friends, go on drives, and explore the Sierra Nevada Valley with the club.

Gail V. Wells

Gail Wells
President



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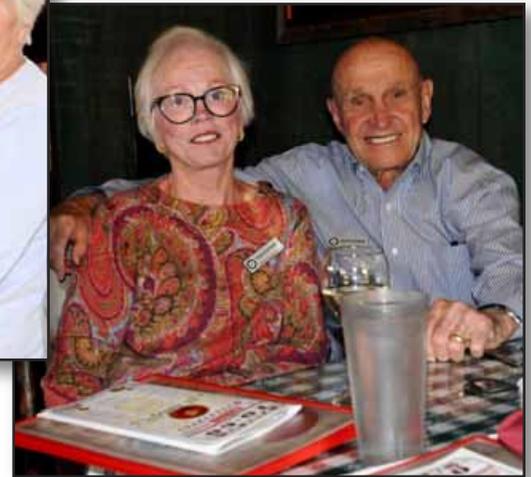
SIERRA NEVADA MBCA FORMER PRESIDENTS

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 GROUP
HAD A GREAT EVENING
OF BBQ & FUN.



'Que for Me & You

(Continued from Page 1)

a Mercedes-Benz on the wall. The waiter for the evening was impeccable, ensuring that everyone's drinks were flowing and their food arrived at the table timely and hot.

Red's is famous in Carson City, not only for its award-winning house-smoked barbecue, but because it also boasts the capitol city's only wood-fired oven. Chef Jose, a legend in the local community, hand-cuts all of the meat and creates the dynamic and delicious menu from scratch. Many club members expressed their love of Red's Old 395 Grill, with several stating that they visit the restaurant quite regularly.

Some club members got the famous Red's 'Que for Two, which included barbecue ribs, smoked chicken, hand-made sausages, cornbread, coleslaw, and prairie fire beans, deliv-



ered to the table in a gigantic hand-woven basket. Others enjoyed chicken piccata, steaks, salads, and much more. Wine, whiskey, cocktails, and beer were consistently making the journey from the restaurant bar to the private dining room. Red's has an impressive beer selection, including local suds from Brewer's Cabinet, Great Basin, Revision, and Shoe Tree.

The next First Wednesday Dinner will be at Glen Eagle's in Carson City, Nevada, on June 2, 2021, hosted by Gail and

Vencil Wells. To RSVP, please contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701. 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 Dinner or an event, contact Gail Wells. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook. 

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**CHANGE
OF
VENUE**



June 2nd Dinner Now at Glen Eagles

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Seating at 5:30 P.M.**

**Glen Eagles
3700 N Carson St,
in Carson City**

**This Dinner is being
Hosted by Gail Wells**

RSVP to Gail at

307.763.1701 or blackswan342@gmail.com





THE NEW SL'S
BODYSHELL WAS
DESIGNED TO BE
LIGHTWEIGHT & HAVE
THE LOWEST POSSIBLE
CENTER OF GRAVITY.

Mercedes-AMG SL Bodyshell

New Roadster to Use Lightweight Composite Aluminum Structure

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



We've reported recently on the Mercedes-Benz SL Roadster, and we now have new information for our dedicated readers. Mercedes engineers are giving the new Mercedes-AMG SL a bodyshell that resembles the architecture typically reserved for motorsports models. A fusion of durable and lightweight components, including a composite aluminum chassis, is going to be the standard for the new SL roadster.

According to our insider at Mercedes-Benz, the idea for this new bodyshell stems from a challenge the development team decided to undertake, which was to start completely from scratch without building on any existing chassis. Not only does this speak to the ingenuity of the Mercedes brand, but also to the capabilities of the design and engineering

team to develop an all-new bodyshell.

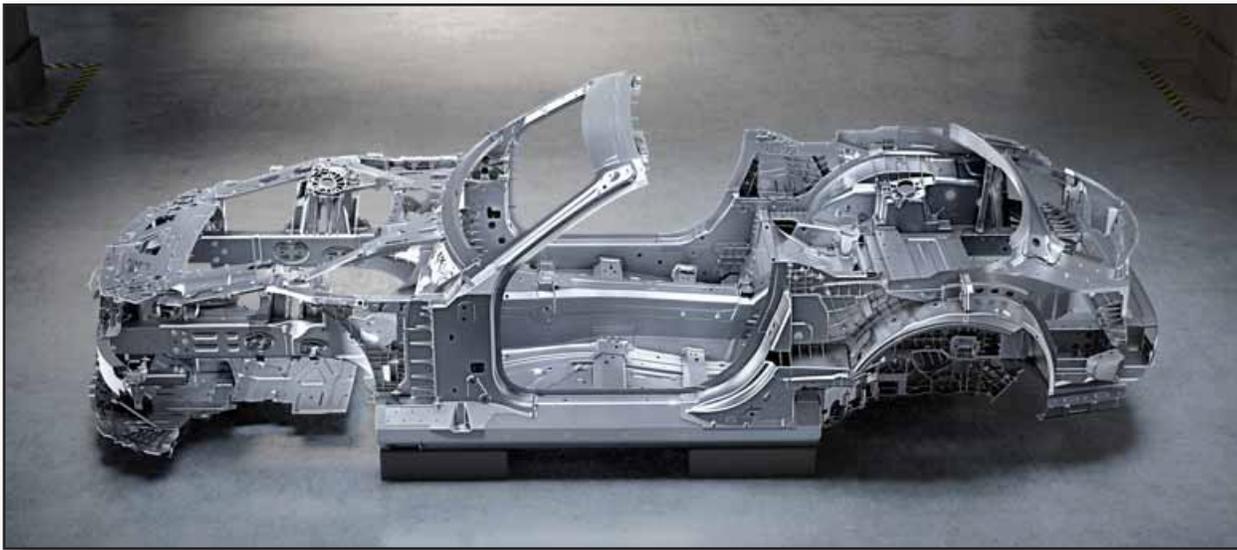
The frame of the new Mercedes-AMG SL features aluminum, steel, magnesium, and fiber composites, which boasts the highest possible rigidity coupled with a light total weight. The goal of this redesign was to further optimize the safety and comfort features of Mercedes cars. When compared to the previous SL model, the new bodyshell has a torsional stiffness that is 18% higher, a transverse rigidity that is increased by 50%, and a longitudinal rigidity that is 40% higher. Overall, this means that the new chassis has increased structural integrity. The entire bodyshell architecture is designed to have the lowest possible center of gravity, which enhances passenger safety.

"The development team in our bodyshell design area was faced with an extremely appealing, but also chal-

lenging task. When we were commissioned to undertake the overall development of the new SL, we started from scratch, so to speak, without building on any existing structure," said Jochen Hermann, Chief Technical Officer of Mercedes-AMG GmbH. "We can be justifiably proud of the result, which proves, once again, the high level of development competence in Affalterbach. On the one hand we have managed to reconcile the high package demands, while on the other we have been able to achieve excellent rigidity values in all areas in conjunction with a favorable weight, so providing the basis for agile driving dynamics and exceptional comfort."

In addition to the substantial upgrades in materials that are used on the new bodyshell, the engineering team has employed modern joining techniques that raise the bar when it comes

(Continued on Page 6)



THE INITIAL
BODYSHELL
DESIGN WAS
COMPLETED
IN LESS THAN
THREE MONTHS.

Mercedes-AMG SL Bodyshell

(Continued from Page 5)

to frame value and safety. These include MIG welding, laser welding, punch riveting, MIG soldering, glued seams or flow-hole bolts, as well as precise toolmaking. The windscreen frame is made of high-strength, hot-formed

tubular steel and a system behind the rear seats extends, if necessary, to serve as rollover protection.

Much to no one's surprise, this new development was reached in record-breaking time, with the designers and

engineers finishing pre-development in only three months. The new SL, which will be produced in the Bremen, Germany plant, is expected to start selling in 2022, with a late 2021 reveal arriving first.





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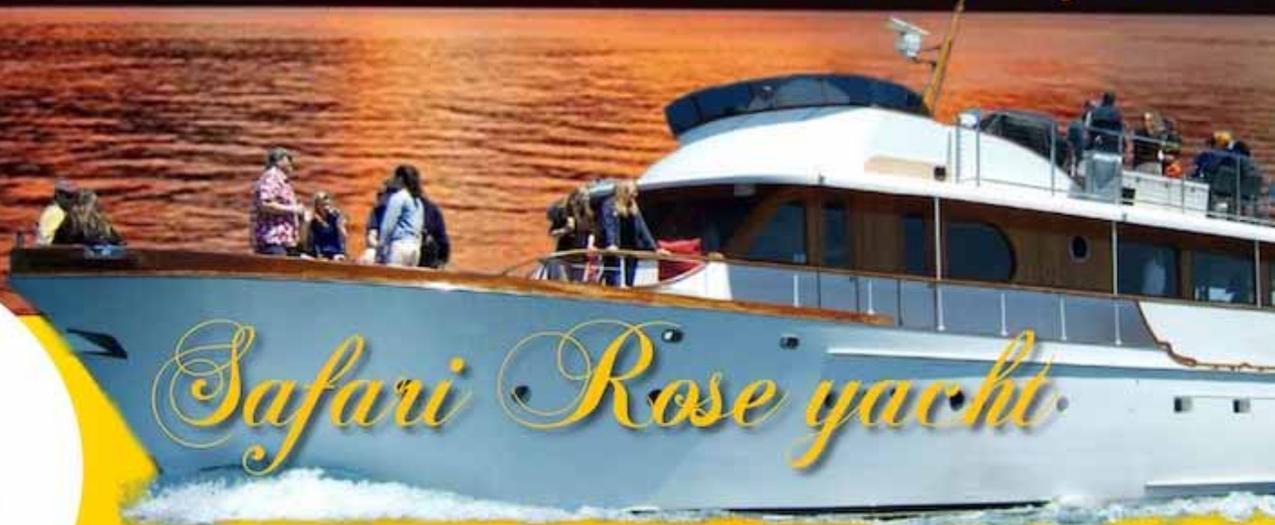


Tahoe Sunset Cruise



Hosted by Dee &
Michael Garcia

June 10, 2021

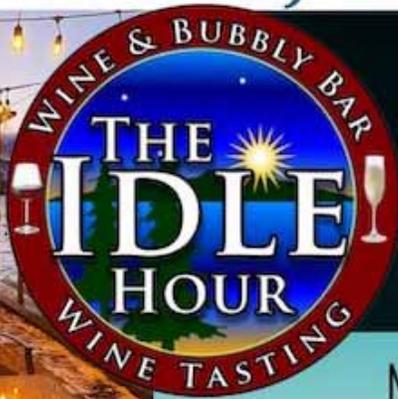


Price
Reduced to
\$65
Normally
\$85

The Club is covering the rest of the ticket cost!

RSVP to Gail then Call (775) 588-1881 to Buy Your Ticket

Drive ◇ Early Dinner ◇ Sunset Cruise



We leave MB of Reno at 2:30. Drive to Ski Run Marina parking lot. Shuttle to The Idle Hour lakeside wine bar at 4:00 (separate checks). Back to Marina for 6:15 departure on Safari Rose for 2 hour sunset cruise (inc. 1 drink).

MUST RSVP to Gail Wells at:
blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701



Cold Springs Station

Club Members Trek to Original Pony Express Spot in Central Nevada

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

On a tumultuously rainy day in May, 12 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America trekked out past Fallon, Nevada. The wind was blowing, the hail was falling, and lightning could be seen in the distance, but that didn't stop the seven-car cavalcade from pounding the pavement through Fallon and on to Cold Springs Station Resort. The club left Mercedes-Benz of Reno at 10:30 a.m., picked up highway 50, and headed east. Several members told stories of prior experiences on the Loneliest Road in America, Highway 50, and everyone was excited to hit the trails on the famous road. The group traveled over Drumm Summit, through Dixie Valley, and past Middlegate Station on its way to the final destination. Some members in the group got separated, but were thankfully reunited after some adventuresome navigation.

Highway 50 stretches more than 3,000 miles in total, and hits both coasts of the United States. The portion that runs through Nevada is famously known as the Loneliest Road



in America, as it passes through mostly rural desert landscape and mountains within the Great Basin. While the official Highway 50 was created in 1926 as part of the original United States Highway System, the section within Nevada runs along the old Pony Express route, which dates back to 1860. The Pony Express was an early attempt at an express mail service, in which riders would change horses every few

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ABOVE: THE GROUP STANDING IN FRONT OF THE FAMOUS SHOE TREE. SHOWN HERE: THE COLD SPRINGS STATION RESORT.

Cold Springs Station

(Continued from Page 8)

miles in order to maintain quick delivery speeds. Each rider rode about 75-100 miles per shift, changing horses as many as eight times. Two minutes were allotted for each horse exchange, allowing the mail to speed across the country in record time. While the Pony Express mail deliverers were admirable



and brave, the station keepers and stock tenders also allowed for the success of the system. Some of the stations in Nevada included Carson City, Antelope Springs, Fort

Churchill, Genoa, and dozens more.

On this particular outing, lunch was served at Cold Springs Station Resort, an outdoor adventure getaway established near the original site of the 1860 Pony Express Cold Springs Station. A destination spot for many travelers, Cold Springs Station Resort has a gift shop, RV park, cabins, a motel, and a top-notch restaurant and bar. On this day, club members were excited to try the wide selection of burgers, which ranged from patty melts to classic burgers. Those uninterested in burgers were able to choose other selections from the menu, such as a chicken sandwich, grilled cheese, club sandwich, French dip, and more. Thirsty from the dusty drive, club members were eager to wet their whistle from the full-service bar. The restaurant staff and ownership were delightful and so accommodating to the group.

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Cold Springs Station

(Continued from Page 9)

Highway 50 has some spectacular roadside attractions. Just past Fallon lies Sand Mountain, a popular destination for ATVs. The club was privy to some off-road acrobatics on this particular morning. On the way out to Cold Springs Station, the club stopped at The Shoe Tree, which is literally a giant tree on the side of the road with thousands of pairs of shoes hanging from it. A local legend, travelers have been



encouraged to leave their mark on the tree, and you'll find hanging on it adult shoes, kid's sneakers, cowboy boots, and more. It was a unique sight to see before lunch.

The next driving event will be to South Lake Tahoe on June 10. We will enjoy drinks and dinner at the Idle Hour Wine and Bubbly Bar, then board the Safari Rose Yacht for a sunset cruise. Interested club members must RSVP to this event by contacting Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701, then purchase their own cruise tickets by calling (775) 588-1881. Events 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 or an event, contact Gail Wells. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook.



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**First Tuesday Dinner
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Hosted by MaryAnn and Bob Tokle

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July 6, seating at 5:30 P.M.

RSVP to MaryAnn at

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THE CONCEPT EQT MINIVAN SEATS SEVEN PEOPLE & SPORTS A PANORAMIC GLASS ROOF.

Luxury Minivan?

Mercedes Entering Minivan Market with the New EQT

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Mercedes-Benz has been consistently debuting hybrid and all-electric vehicles for several years. A new compact T-Class van is the latest glimpse into the German automaker's electric plans. The EQ line, which is Mercedes' foray into the all-electric vehicle market, is one of the company's largest investments, which includes in-house-made power packs. Mercedes launched full-speed into the EQ line, starting with the EQA electric crossover and EQS luxury sedan. The concept EQT, or electric T-Class van, is the ninth model to be unveiled from the EQ line.

The seven-seater van, developed in partnership with Renault, is intended to rival the Volkswagen Caddy, Citroen Berlingo, and Opel Combo, which all currently dominate the commercial-vehicle market in Europe. Mercedes says there will also be gasoline and diesel versions of the T-Class van, but it is



being first unveiled as an electric option. Specific powertrain details have yet to be released, including range, battery pack size, number of electric motors, and power, but considering it's a concept car, this isn't surprising.

On the bright side, Mercedes has released lots of photos that show the flowing, streamlined design of the concept EQT. The electric van has a big, black grill with LED lights scattered

across the narrow headlights, and the taillights employ a complex LED pattern, too. The EQT showcases large, 21" wheels and an expansive, panoramic glass roof.

Compared to popular American minivans, such as the Honda Odyssey and Chrysler Pacifica, the EQT van is roomy without being overly long. There are three rows of seating with

(Continued on Page 14)

Luxury Minivan?

(Continued from Page 13)

full-size seats in the third row, for a maximum capacity of seven passengers. An electric longboard on the floor of the van is an opportunity for expanded cargo space, and the third row can also be folded down or removed completely. Front passengers will enter via front-hinged doors, while rear access is via a set of sliding doors.

"We are expanding our portfolio with the T-Class," said Marcus Breitschwerdt, Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans. "It will appeal to families and private customers who enjoy leisure activities and need a lot of space and maximum variability."

White Napa leather seats and contrasting glossy black interior details give the Mercedes van an undeniably classy look. Production versions might opt for harder-wearing nylon fabric upholstery. The MBUX steering wheel, which comes standard on many other



Mercedes vehicles, is the default style on the T-Class van, and comes with the MBUX infotainment system and display screen. The van comes with a semi-traditional speedometer, which is an interesting choice when compared to recent high-tech fully digital instrument panels that have come standard in other EQ line models.

Safety features will mirror other Mercedes lines, such as the A-Class, in-

cluding automatic emergency braking, lane assist, cross-wind assist, trailer stability control, and adaptive cruise control with a traffic-assist feature. The new fuel-powered T-Class is expected to launch into the European market in 2022, with no timing given just yet for the electric version EQT. We can expect more finite details when the concept car turns into an official launch announcement later in 2021. 

An advertisement for Precision Wheels and Restoration. The background is a close-up of a large, multi-spoke alloy wheel. In the foreground, two smaller alloy wheels are shown. The text is arranged as follows:
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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.

EVENTS

June 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Glen Eagles, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

June 10, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drinks, Dinner, & Sunset Cruise, hosted by Dee & Michael Garcia, South Lake Tahoe, California. Must RSVP to Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701 to reserve a spot, then purchase tickets from the cruise company by calling (775) 588-1881

July 6, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by MaryAnn & Bob Tokle, Lakeside Bar & Grill, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact MaryAnn Tokle at manntlk7@aol.com or (480) 734-0205

July 17, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Summer Backyard Party, Christy & Marcus Dodson's home, 1840 Wendy Way, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777

August 4, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Duke's Steakhouse at Casino Fandango, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

August 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Picnic & Play at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, Nevada, hosted by LaVern & Carlos Lucovich, Reno, Nevada, date to be determined. To RSVP, contact LaVern Lucovich at lipinski3541@gmail.com or (775) 882-4697

September 7, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Tom & Grace Jenny, location to be determined. To RSVP, contact Tom Jenny at tom-jenny88@yahoo.com or (818) 648-4107

October 5, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined

Video of the Month

Minions & Mercedes...



Minions like showing videos of cars performing stunts! Those Minions are so goofy. Watch what happens when a BMW-supporting Minion shows driver videos to a Mercedes-loving minion. To watch the humorous two-and-a-half-minute video, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7Rue8xhh-w>



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LOCATION:

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DATES:

Mercedes Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021
Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (@Port Royal Golf Course)
Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (@Port Royal Golf Course)

Event Registration COMING SOON !

PRIMARY REGISTRATION will include the ability to participate in most events and activities, as well as the Meet & Greet Reception and Final Banquet. PRIMARY PLUS REGISTRATION will include everything noted in the Primary Registration, as well as the ability to attend the Tech Sessions on Wednesday.

Along with our MBCA Event, we will be able to experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn-East, as well as the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO a Welcome Reception, Historic & TSD Rallies, local shopping & potential cruises, Tech Sessions, Cars & Cocktails, our final MBCA Banquet, and a Special Limited Visit to the Robert Jepson Collection Tour.

The hotel reservation link is open and available to book hotel rooms:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/hilton-head/meetings/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-10302021>

OR reservations can be made by calling Omni central reservation at 1-800-843-6664.

Ask for the group code:110221MERCEDES. Cost per night, for a Resort View Studio Suite, is \$169, plus taxes and daily discounted resort fee.

Further details coming your way in the near future!

Rick Siefert
National Events Chair



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HHI Concours d'Elegance

IN CLOSING

Boating Follies

Keeping Your Wits About You on the Water

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.)

I thought this poignant, with our members getting ready for a water excursion later this month. It may be an old saying, but it's true: safe boating is no accident.

