

The SILVER STAR



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



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**JULY
 OUTDOOR DINNER
 & MUSEUM TOUR
 (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)**



Picnic at the Park Clandestine Encounters of the Club

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Christy and I had the most bizarre encounter at Bartley Ranch Regional Park in Reno in late June. We had planned a quiet, romantic evening alone at the park's gazebo, but it surely did not go as planned. You see, it wasn't long after we arrived at Bartley Ranch that we ran into some familiar faces. In fact, believe it or not, we ran into 25 familiar faces.

That's right, more than two dozen members from the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Sierra Nevada Section all chose to bring their own food and drinks to Bartley Ranch Regional Park to enjoy a sunset picnic. What are the odds? Thankfully, everyone in attendance was able to practice social distancing, as Bartley Ran-

ch has more than enough space at its picnic tables to enjoy the evening safely. It can be a little hard sometimes to hear someone from 6' away, but spirits were still running high, as most of the group hadn't seen one another in months. The majority of the Board of Directors was present, and they were able to share some of the club's recent news and updates with other members.

Spread out amongst the ten picnic tables, of which some were adorned with checkered tablecloths and flower vases, were friendly faces, excited to share what they've been doing during the stay-at-home orders. The general consensus was that most of the members have been bored senseless, while a handful said

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PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Going Topless

Enjoying the Time Outside With Sun on Your Skin

I love going topless in the summertime. There's a certain feeling of freedom to it. You get the sun on your skin, and a little vitamin D is always good for you. It's really quite invigorating and, of course, you get a little extra attention.

Even though we may not be able to enjoy the sunshine too often with our friends right now, you can still get out there and enjoy the summer sun on your own. Hit the open road, go for a long drive, or take an alternate route to the grocery store.

The Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America recently received a letter from the National Automobile Museum in Reno. They reopened over a month ago, but people aren't going in to check out the cars the way they used to. The museum has been a Reno staple for over 30 years, and it does not receive any federal, state, or city funding. Instead, it relies on daily visitors, annual mem-

berships, private events, and tax-deductible donations.

Vence and I recently entertained a visiting friend by taking her to the National Automobile Museum. There is so much to enjoy there, and it's also a great place to practice social distancing since it has large, open spaces and is pretty empty of visitors right now. Please check out page 3 of the newsletter, as we've set up an event to try to get our members to have a nice night out at the museum and enjoy an outdoor dinner afterwards.

Please don't stay cooped up inside. If you can, take off that hard top or put down the rag top. Get out there and enjoy the wind in your hair and the sun on your skin. I know I will.

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.



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TUESDAY
JULY 14, 2020
4:00 p.m.

10 South Lake Street in Reno

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

In these uncertain times, the auto museum needs our support.
Take a leisurely stroll through wide open spaces and see the
remarkable vehicles on display, then visit the gift shop.
Afterwards, we will go next door and have dinner outside
on the patio at Bertha Miranda's Mexican Restaurant.

TO RSVP OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT MARCUS DODSON
AT 775-997-9901 OR MARCUS@DODSONPUBLICATIONS.COM



Picnic at the Park

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they enjoyed the quiet time at home. Many members shared gardening tips, as that seemed to be the prevailing hobby during the quarantine, and a few friends were able to swap photos of new puppies that recently joined their families. Gary and Mary Dyer were there, celebrating their one-year wedding anniversary. People enjoyed a variety of picnic food, some more conventional than others. Everything from sand-

wiches to salads to buckets of fried chicken peppered the picnic tables. A few wine bottles were spotted that evening, and a couple members brought their own martini glasses to enjoy a refreshing cocktail. Since the restrooms were locked, the evening ended earlier than usual, as most attendees took their full bladders and hit the road home.

This chance encounter ended up being one of the largest gatherings since the

winter months, and everyone had a blast catching up. The hugs and handshakes had to wait, but it sure was nice to see some friendly faces again. The next club activity is a visit to the National Automobile Museum in Reno at 4:00 p.m. on July 14, 2020. The leisurely, social-distanced stroll will culminate with an outdoor patio dinner at Bertha Miranda's Mexican Restaurant across the street from the museum. 



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Back to Normal

After Coping with the Pandemic, Mercedes Plants Reopen Across the Globe

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it effectively halted most of the automaker production facilities across the globe. This included Mercedes-Benz and its plants in the United States, Mexico, Germany, South Africa, China, and many other locations. Since June, however, Mercedes-Benz has been implementing a step-by-step reopening initiative that allows for the company's employees to return to work safely. The health and safety of the workers is the carmaker's top priority as production begins to ramp up again.

"Our first priority is to further contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide a safe working environment for our employees, suppliers, and service providers," said Jörg Burzer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz AG, Production and Supply Chain Management. International sites are reopening in phased approaches, allowing each plant to adhere to regional and national safety guidelines.

"Together with the whole team, I am glad that we are gradually restarting our production in a coordinated manner," expressed Burzer. "Flexibility is what counts here. Our plants' flexibility is one of our strategic focuses in produc-

tion, and that has helped us in this ramp up. We are producing in compliance with extensive safety measures and we will be increasing our product step by step."

Some early adaptors to the reopening had difficulty acquiring parts manufactured in Mexico, as the country was reopening much more slowly and was unable to keep up with demand. This lag led to Mercedes suspending production of its GLS and GLE SUVs and C-Class sedans in Alabama, for example. However, as Mexican plants resumed more traditional operating schedules in late May, Mercedes plants that utilize parts from Mexico were able to get back to their anticipated reopening schedules.

Mercedes' reopening of its plants is not only important to the company's continued success, but it's also critical for the local economies where each plant is situated. Speaking of the Alabama plant's reopening, Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox said, "As we begin a new phase, I think you're going to see a gradual restart of the economy with a measured approach. What Mercedes is beginning today is certainly moving in that direction."

In Germany, the Mercedes plants reopened with new regulations in place, including staggered start-ups of various plants, one-shift operations, hygiene stations, and social distancing requirements. "Carmakers contribute significantly to the German economy," stated German economist Felix Roesel. "Almost one million well-paid jobs in Germany depend on this sector." The largest Mercedes-Benz plant is in the town of Sindelfingen in Baden-Württemberg, in Southern Germany. It has been in operation since 1915 and makes the luxury automaker's flagship model, the S-Class, as well as the E-Class Saloon and Estate, among other models.

In Hungary, Mercedes-Benz suspended production at its Kecskemét plant in late March, but was able to reopen in late April while observing cautious regulations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As one of the largest contributors to both the regional and national economies, with 4,400 employees, it was critical that Mercedes reopened its Hungary plant as safely and quickly as possible. The Hungarian plant first reopened with a one-shift production line, in both the engine and vehicle departments, while the tool factory and technical development department reopened at full capacity. The company plans for a gradual product ramp up in order to reach the level that it had before the pandemic.

Mercedes-Benz led the way in reopening its plants, beginning with Alabama in late April, then the South Carolina plant early May. There have been hiccups along the way as the luxury automaker navigates a new normal, but overall, the outlook for ramping up production and churning out top-tier cars looks good.



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Silver Arrow of the Seas

The Mercedes-Benz ARROW460-Granturismo

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

If cruising the streets in an S-Class or traversing the mountains in a G-Class doesn't sound thrilling enough for you, don't worry, Mercedes®-Benz has you covered with another option: a luxury yacht. Off the coast of Nice, France, the luxury-motor yacht ARROW460-Granturismo, known as the Silver Arrow of the Seas, has recently embarked on its maiden voyage.

Despite being a marine vessel, the Arrow460-Granturismo has all the callings of being a Mercedes-Benz innovative design. The 46'-long, 960-horsepower luxury yacht combines the performance of Mercedes-Benz sports cars with unique innovations from the boat industry. For a maritime vehicle, it has a crossover design in which an open-boat exterior mixes with a hull cabin



cruiser. This fusion allows for day trips as well as overnight stays inside the cabin.

The boat was designed by Silver Arrows Marine, a builder of innovative luxury motor yachts, and its team col-

laborates with Mercedes-Benz on its marine vessels. The United Kingdom-based company was established in 2011 and its distinctive designs capture the sporting elegance of Mercedes-Benz au-

(Continued on Page 7)



Silver Arrow of the Seas

(Continued from Page 6)

tomobiles and transforms it for the water.

“Almost everything about ARROW-460-Granturismo is unique, from its concept to the smallest bespoke detail,” said Rob Gibbs, Silver Arrows Marine Chairman. “It is a motor yacht with a personality that truly embraces life, combining the best marine engineering

with the inspired innovations and elegance that the world associates with Mercedes-Benz.”

The attention to detail and craftsmanship of the ARROW460-Granturismo is evident from a mile away. Silver Arrows Marine notes seven visions of inspiration that guided them to the final design of the luxury motor yacht.

The hull of the yacht delivers dynamic performance with great comfort, refinement, and ease of handling. The smart-glass windows adjust their transparency electronically from dark to light at the press of a button, ensuring privacy and maintaining comfort levels. Retractable side windows are an exclusive

(Continued on Page 8)



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Silver Arrow of the Seas

(Continued from Page 7)

system recently created by Silver Arrows Marine.

The interior of the yacht has a light, bright, and spacious largely open-plan area that offers protection from the elements without occupants having to deal with a closed-in feeling. Up to ten people fit comfortably for a day cruise, and the cabin easily transforms from a lounge area to a dining room to a private bedroom suite for two. All necessary facilities are built in. A large cockpit area and extending rear platform offer the perfect area for lounging, sunbathing, and watersports. A hydraulically powered pergola-style roof system brings the outside inside, so guests can enjoy meals alongside morning sunshine, afternoon breezes, and nighttime stars.

"The muscular, stretched hull symbolizes the sensual purity of the design: dynamic but not aggressive, sophisticated but not subject to fashion," said Gorden Wagener, Chief Design Officer,

Daimler AG. "With its long foredeck, arched roofline, and a slightly descending rear, the design is inspired by classic automobile proportions."

The interior of the ARROW460-Granturismo is uncluttered and streamlined. Silver Arrows Marine focuses on an unobtrusive design that incorporates amenities that make life easier, such as built-in systems and automated controls. A dining table, television, and bed all remain hidden until they are needed. The bathroom and utility room are both private from the main cabin. Air conditioning, entertainment systems, and other smart controls are all custom fitted. The interior's wood elements are made of eucalyptus and



the lounge furniture is elegant white leather.

It makes perfect sense that the imaginative, innovative, and luxury designs that Mercedes-Benz employs for its automobiles is easily translated into a marine vessel. The ARROW460-Granturismo is a first-rate motor yacht that proudly displays the design integrity and ingenuity of the Mercedes-Benz brand. 

WELCOME NEW SIERRA NEVADA MBCA MEMBERS...
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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???

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EVENTS

July 14, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Museum Stroll & Dinner, hosted by Marcus & Christy Dodson, National Automobile Museum & Bertha Miranda's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

August 4, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Bill & Lori Shepherd, BJ's Restaurant & Brewery at The Summit, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Bill Shepherd at billshp38@gmail.com or (775) 843-4616

August or September 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Summer Backyard Party, Marcus & Christy Dodson's home, 1840 Wendy Way, Reno, Nevada, Date To Be Determined

September 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive to Columbia Valley, California, hosted by Marc & Sue Dodson, 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 Plumgate, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Karen Gash at karinmrich1946@icloud.com or (775) 851-1439

October 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive & Wine Tasting to Nevada City, California, hosted by the Board of Directors, Date To Be Determined

November 3, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

December 1, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Marc & Sue Dodson, Sasquatch Tavern & Grill, Verdi, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

December 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Christmas Party, hosted by Ray Rich, Date & Location To Be Determined



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IN CLOSING

Rolling Humor

Getting Creative with Service Truck Signage

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.)

Ever see a service truck that you just can't forget? Maybe there was a little humor. True, it's a lot easier in some industries, like plumbing, to make someone smile, but these companies went over the top.

