

# The SILVER STAR



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



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**SECOND TUESDAY  
 DINNER IN NOVEMBER  
 AT MI CASA TOO  
 (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)**



## Uncorked

### Tuesday Dinner & Drinks at Napa-Sonoma Wine Bar

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

**I**n early October, the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America hosted an elegant and fun Tuesday Dinner at Napa-Sonoma Plumgate in Reno. The venue was wonderfully accommodating of the group of 22 guests, providing an assortment of tables that seated between four and six people in a private dining area. A few members arrived early and enjoyed cocktails and wine in the bar area before settling into their

seats for the 5:30 p.m. dinner. Attendees were excited to be gathered together again, and everyone was happy that events are filling up the calendar for the remainder of the year and into 2021.

Napa-Sonoma is a favorite spot for many members, as it is known throughout Reno as a beautiful, casual restaurant with delicious food and a fantastic wine selection. The relaxing, full-service dining establishment has an exten-

(Continued on Page 3)

# PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



## Giving Thanks

*Grateful for Friends, Family, & Fun*

**I**t's officially fall, with cooler temperatures here to stay and Northern Nevada displaying the most beautiful colors of red, orange, and yellow. We're all digging our sweaters out of our closets and making plans for Thanksgiving. Whether you're gathering with friends and family or keeping it simple, I hope that you all find something special to be thankful for this year. While it can be tough to see past all of the tribulations 2020 has brought us, I find comfort in knowing that a new year with new opportunities is just around the corner.

Our club events have been a big hit recently, including an enthusiastic group of 22 members gathering at Napa-Sonoma Plumgate in October for a spirited evening of dinner and drinks. Mark your calendars for our upcoming Second Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Marcus & Christy Dodson, at Mi Casa Too Mexican Restaurant and Bar on November 10. Then, join us for a drive on

November 18 to Sherry's Stage Stop and the Lyon County Museum in Yerington, Nevada, hosted by Patti and Gene Lamski.

The Christmas Party has been scheduled for December 17 at Napa-Sonoma South, hosted by Ray Rich. Space is limited, so be sure to mail in your checks, and if you pre-pay for your dinner by November 13, the club will take \$10 off the price. More information on that can be found on the flyer in this edition of the newsletter. I hope to see all of you at our upcoming dinners, drives, and parties. We all get a little busier as the holidays roll in, but remember to make time for your friends.

*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.



## Uncorked

(Continued from Page 1)

sive menu that includes artisan cheeses, bruschetta, polenta, nachos, salads, soups, burgers, sandwiches, chicken, fish, steak, and much more. More than one Club member ordered the 12oz. Certified Angus Beef® rib-eye steak, and a few people dined on the grilled king salmon risotto.

There was plenty of space within the private dining room for friends to mingle while still social distancing. Members were dazzled by the service and the seamless progression of the evening. Napa-Sonoma Plumgate has a sister restaurant in South Reno, and the Club's Christmas Party will be taking place at this location in December. If this recent Tuesday Dinner is any indicator of what the upcoming Christmas Party will be like, then Club members are in for a treat. To RSVP to the upcoming Christmas Party at Napa-Sonoma South on December 17, please contact Ray Rich at rayrich@sbcglobal.net or (775) 560-9592.

The next Tuesday Dinner will be at Mi Casa Too Mexican Restaurant out on 4th Street in Reno, hosted by Marcus and Christy Dodson, on November 10. To RSVP, please email Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or text (775) 997-9901. First Tuesday 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 Marcus Dodson. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook.



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# TACO TUESDAY



## SECOND TUESDAY DINNER

at **MiCasa Too**

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

5:30 P.M.

2205 WEST 4TH STREET  
IN RENO

**RSVP** TO MARCUS DODSON AT  
[MARCUS@DODSONPUBLICATIONS.COM](mailto:MARCUS@DODSONPUBLICATIONS.COM)  
or TEXT 775-997-9901





## Stealth Edition

### Mercedes-Benz AMG GT Gets New Sinister Look

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



Mercedes-Benz® has unveiled its new Stealth Edition of the AMG GT, which is a special version of the model in an all-black design that evokes a sinister look. Coming to the market

in early 2021, the Stealth Edition will be available for both coupe and roadster body styles, with either a carbon fiber roof or black fabric top, respectively. If a dramatic all-black car isn't your cup of tea, there is also the option of ordering the automobile in selenite

grey metallic or designo graphite grey magno.

The Stealth Edition of the AMG GT bundles the AMG Exterior Night Package with black brake calipers and a dark chrome treatment on the trim,

(Continued on Page 7)

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# Stealth Edition

(Continued from Page 5)

matte black wheels, and black headlights. The menacing features of the black car permeate the inside, as the Interior Night Package includes AMG performance seats in black diamond-quilted Nappa leather, a black steering wheel wrapped in Dinamica® microfiber, black stitching, and piano black trim. Previously, owners wishing for this kind of aesthetic would need to make a special trip to an aftermarket body shop.

The AMG GT base model itself will get a few updates next year, including more power and new standard equipment, such as a lithium-ion starter battery. The 4.0-liter twin-turbo V8 engine will produce 523 horsepower, which is up from 469. The torque will remain the same, allowing the 2021 AMG GT to reach 60 mph in 3.7 seconds, a tad quicker than its previous models. The top speed for the AMG GT is 194 mph for the coupe, with the roadster right behind it at 193 mph. The 2021 AMG GT base model and Stealth Edition will come with ride-control suspension with adaptive dampers, an electronic limited-slip differential, upgraded composite brakes, and a race driving mode that is reminiscent of the GT C and GT R models.

Pricing hasn't been announced yet, but those in line for the AMG GT Stealth Edition can expect to lay down six figures. Dealerships should start carrying the sinister new model early next year, giving everyone who is interested ample time to practice their best Bond villain impression.

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# SIERRA NEVADA MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA



## YERINGTON DRIVE NOVEMBER 18th

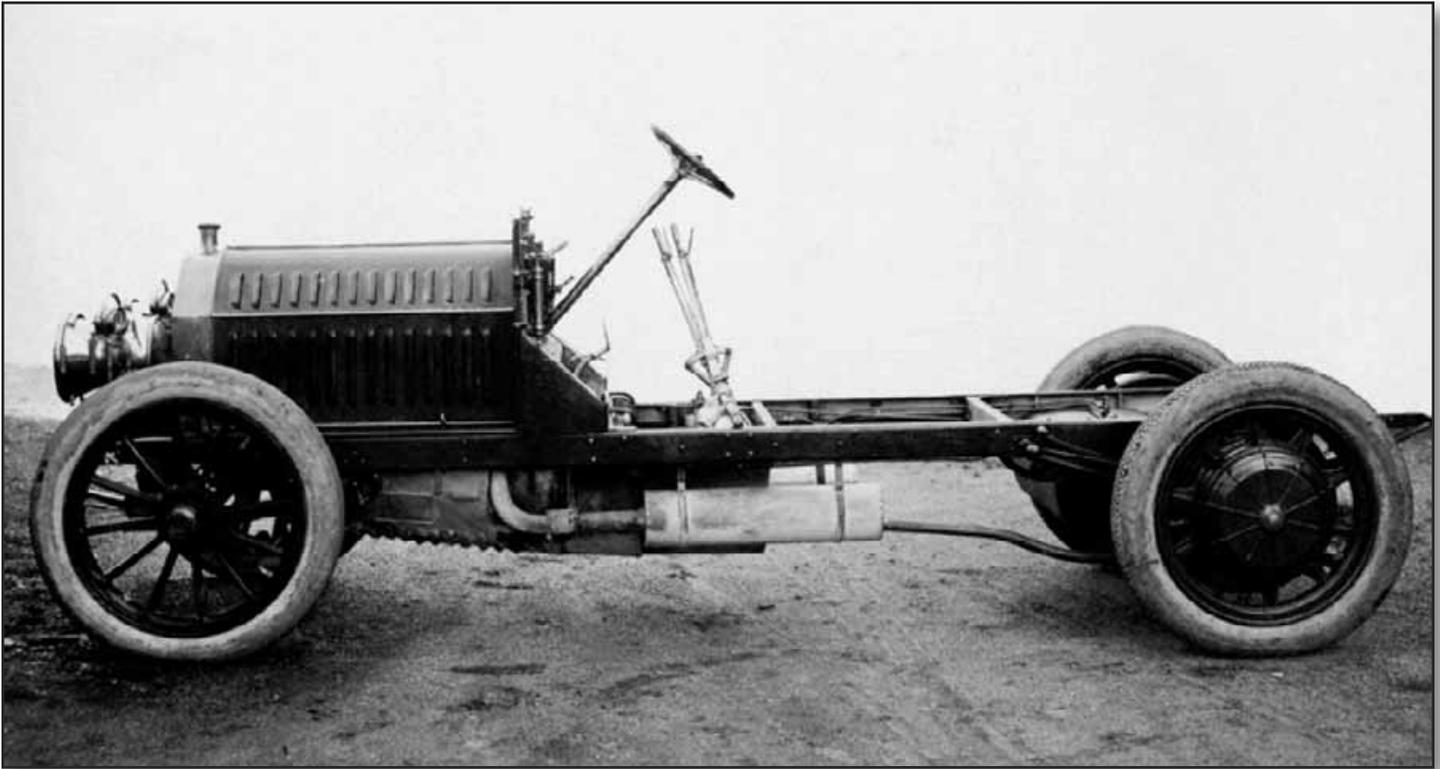
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# Mercedes Mixte

## *Luxury Carmaker's First True Hybrid Vehicle*

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

**M**ore and more carmakers are reevaluating their inventory and shifting gears to all-electric and hybrid options. While these innovative automobiles might seem like the zeitgeist of the early 21st century, you might be shocked to know that the electric vehicle is well over 100 years old. From battery-operated carriages in Scotland to electric locomotives and trams in England, electric transportation in the early 20th century quickly transformed from simple motorized carts to cutting-edge engines that could propel full-sized cars.

In 1902, Wilhelm Maybach, a German engine designer and technical di-

rector of Daimler, patented a two-cylinder engine that was supposed to combine the functions of the internal combustion engine and the steam engine. Maybach's intention was to eliminate the heavy engine parts that consumers often complained about.

In order to achieve this, a compressor was heated by the exhaust gas, which raised the compression level. Two pneumatic engines arranged beneath the body converted the pressure into kinetic energy, which drove the wheels. By eliminating the toothed wheel drive, the differential, the clutch, and the brakes on the gearbox, Maybach created an engine that was lighter and easy to operate. Unfortunately, the high cost of the engine and its poor efficiency halted pro-

duction and it never went to market.

Just a few years later, in 1907, Mercedes was once again at the forefront of engine innovation with its first hybrid vehicle, the Mercedes Mixte. The Mixte hybrid automobile relied on technology previously engineered by Ferdinand Porsche, chief engineer of Daimler, who took his original development and redesigned it for Mercedes. The design used a dynamo that converted the energy of the gasoline engine into electric energy to supply power to two traction motors that were designed as wheel motors. Mixte is a French word, signifying the combination of gas and electric powertrains.

In the Mercedes Mixte, the motors were positioned on the rear axle, giving the car an unusually shaped hub, which contemporary reporters dubbed the "dumpling." The Mixte was a large touring car with front-mounted radiator coils shielded by a low hood.

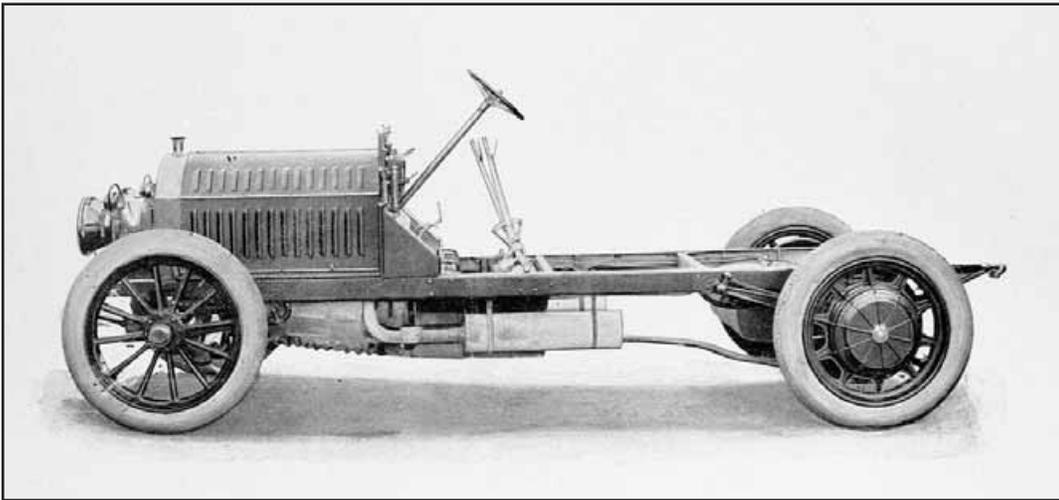
Despite poor sales, the Mixte re-

(Continued on Page 10)

**WELCOME NEW SIERRA NEVADA MBCA MEMBERS...**

**Charles Cummings — Minden, Nevada**

**Charles & Janice Kriss — Minden, Nevada**



THE MIXTE HAD ELECTRIC MOTORS MOUNTED AT THE REAR AXLES, WHICH IS WHY IT HAD LARGER HUBS AT THE BACK OF THE VEHICLE.

## Mercedes Mixte

(Continued from Page 9)

mained in production until 1915. It had a steep price tag of up to \$6,840, or around \$200,000 in today's economy. Emil Jellinek, who famously bought and sold Mercedes across Europe and whose daughter, Mercedes, gave the iconic car brand its name, ordered five early incarnations of the Mixte.

The Mixte saw a few racetracks in its day, such as the Exelburg Hillclimb in Austria. With a reported top speed of 75 mph, it was supposed to start in the 73-mile Taunus Race, but skidded off the track during tests and was severely damaged.

Today, Mercedes-Benz offers a full

line of hybrid and all-electric vehicles, ranging from sports cars to touring sedans to SUVs. While the luxury car-maker continues to spearhead ingenuity in the electric engine world, it was Ferdinand Porsche's Mixte for Daimler that originally sparked the world's interest in hybrid engine technology. 

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# MEETING MINUTES

## Sierra Nevada MBCA

### Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Napa-Sonoma Plumgate

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Directors present were: Gail Wells, President; Christy Dodson, Secretary; LaVern Lucovich, Treasurer; Patti Lamski, Program Director; Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor; Vencil Wells, Board Member; and Bill Shepherd, Past President. Also present were Lori Shepherd, Carlos Lucovich, and Gene Lamski.

#### CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Christy Dodson confirmed there was a quorum of directors present.

#### MINUTES:

Christy Dodson made a motion to approve the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter. Marcus Dodson 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 \$2,588.92 in its bank account. This total amount includes the annual fees that are collected from businesses that advertise in the monthly 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 the beginning of October, the Club has 82 members. This total includes one new member. Two members expired and one moved out of state. Vencil Wells made a motion to approve the Membership Report and Christy Dodson seconded it.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Marcus Dodson and Vencil Wells will go into Mercedes-Benz of Reno to talk to Dave about sponsoring the Club instead of buying the wine for the Christmas Party.
- Bill Shepherd made a motion to buy down the dinner by \$10.00 for those attending the Christmas Party, if they are purchased by a certain deadline. Vencil Wells seconded the motion.
- Marcus Dodson will work on selling more Newsletter ads.

#### SECTION EVENTS:

- The Second Tuesday Dinner in November will be at Mi Casa Too Mexican Restaurant, Reno, hosted by Marcus and Christy Dodson on November 10.
- Patti Lamski will try to line up a drive in November to Yerington. She will schedule a date after speaking with Sherry's Stage Stop Restaurant and the Lyon County Museum.
- The Christmas Party will be at Napa-Sonoma South in Reno, hosted by Ray Rich on December 17.
- The First Tuesday Dinner in January will

be at Pietro Famiglia's, Sparks, hosted by Gail and Vencil Wells on January 5. Gail will call the restaurant to inquire about making a group reservation.

• The Board brainstormed more events and locations for 2021 and will continue to look into them.

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Christy Dodson stated that she received 16 ballots this year, which is more than any other year, and all on the ballot were elected. Bill Shepherd thanked the Board and wished everyone the best, as this was his final Board meeting.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5, at 4:30 p.m. before the First Tuesday Dinner.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Gail Wells made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Marcus Dodson seconded it. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

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@SierraNevadaMBCA

Stay up to date on  
club news and events



NEXT MEETING  
JANUARY 5

SIERRA NEVADA SECTION

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD

ONCE EACH QUARTER

NEXT BOARD MEETING

WILL BE ON JANUARY 5, 2020 AT 4:30 P.M.

SIERRA NEVADA MBCA

# CHRISTMAS

## Party



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6:00 P.M.

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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?"

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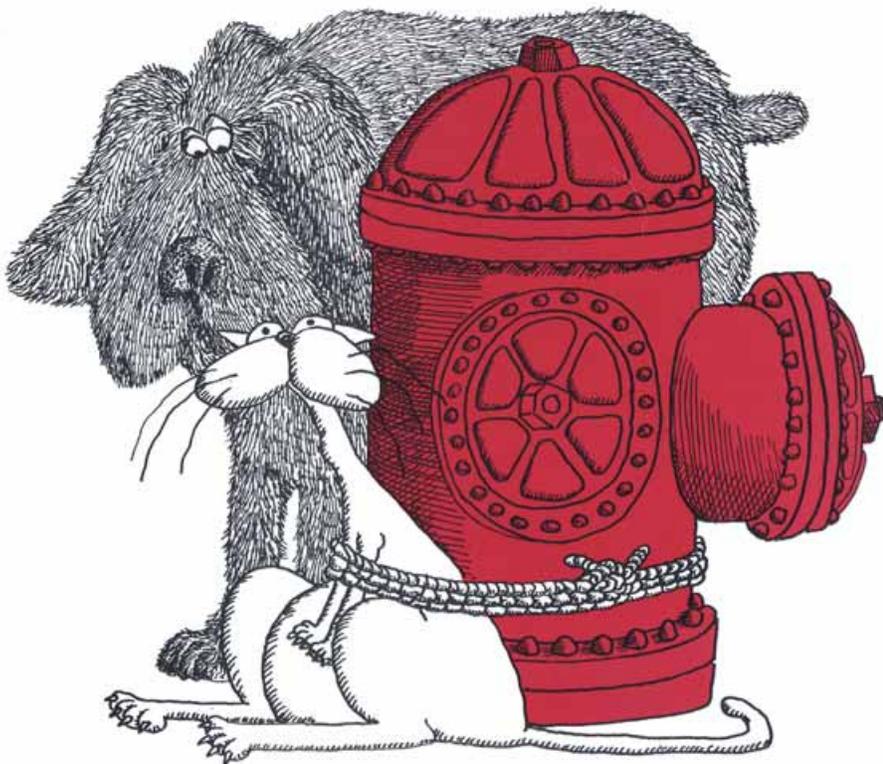
With this name badge you can hold your head up high! You will become the envy of the neighborhood, the first on your block, and the proud owner of a Sierra Nevada MBCA name badge identifying you as part of an elite group that has \$12 to spend.

Operators are standing by! Scan the QR code, order online by going to: [www.mbc.org/name-badge](http://www.mbc.org/name-badge), or you can call the MBCA office at (800) 637-2360.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.



## Cartoon of the Month



# EVENTS

November 10, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Second Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Marcus & Christy Dodson, Mi Casa Too Mexican Restaurant & Bar, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at [marcus@dodsonpublications.com](mailto:marcus@dodsonpublications.com) or (775) 997-9901

November 18, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive to Sherry's Stage Stop & Lyon County Museum, Yerington, Nevada, hosted by Patti & Gene Lamski. Meet at Mercedes-Benz dealership at 9:30 a.m. To RSVP, contact Patti Lamski at [topat83@aol.com](mailto:topat83@aol.com) or (770) 852-1522

December 17, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Christmas Party, hosted by Ray Rich, Napa-Sonoma South, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Ray Rich at [rayrich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rayrich@sbcglobal.net) or (775) 560-9592

January 5, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Vence & Gail Wells, Pietro's Famiglia, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701

February 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Bowling, hosted by Vence & Gail Wells, Grand Sierra Resort Bowling Center, Reno, Nevada. Dinner location is to be determined. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701

There are plenty of openings for future events. Do you have a favorite restaurant that you like to eat at, or is there a scenic drive that stands out in your mind? If you'd like to host a dinner, drive, or any event, please contact Patti Lamski at [topat83@aol.com](mailto:topat83@aol.com) or call (775) 224-1794.



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# IN CLOSING

## Haulin'

### Who Needs a U-Haul Truck When You Have a Mercedes?

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.)

**S**ure, we've all seen it; some fool driving down the highway with a mattress loosely tied to the roof of a car. These clever Mercedes®-Benz owners took transporting goods to a whole new level.

