

The SILVER STAR



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



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DECEMBER 15, 2021

CHRISTMAS PARTY

(SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS)



Cafe Del Rio

Authentic Western Weekend Drive in Virginia City

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In early November, 27 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America dusted off their cowboy hats and trekked up into Virginia City, Nevada, for a fun drive and lunch event. Well, only one member wore a cowboy hat, but the sentiment was there. Virginia City is always a favorite destination for the adventurous club, and this Saturday afternoon jaunt, hosted by Marc and

Sue Dodson, was another one for the books.

In total, nine cars from the Reno side of the foothills and five cars from the Carson Valley side met in the middle at Cafe Del Rio on bustling C Street. The drive up to Virginia City was winding and breezy, but thankfully the cavalcade missed a looming rainstorm in the valley. Located in the historic Werrin Building, which was originally a grocery store and

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PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Holiday Cheer

Twinkling Lights & Festive Delights This Christmas Season

Happy holidays to all of my friends in the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. It has been a long, wonderful year full of gatherings, lively dinners, and once-in-a-lifetime events. Vencil and I had a lovely Thanksgiving with close friends, and I hope that all of you had tables full of good food and cheer. Our neighborhood is alight with Christmas twinkles, and we are so filled with the holiday spirit.

Our much-anticipated Annual Christmas Party will be held in a couple weeks, on Wednesday, December 15, at Glen Eagles in Carson City, Nevada. Ray Rich is once again hosting this formal event, and he has been working diligently to put on a spectacular evening. There's still time to RSVP, so be sure to contact Ray if you'd like to attend. Can't wait to see you there.

In November, Sue and Marc Dodson hosted the club on a wild ride up to Virginia City, Nevada, for lunch at Cafe Del Rio. A few club members even followed up lunch with a Bloody Mary over at the

famous Bucket of Blood Saloon. It's always fun to travel back in time and visit one of Nevada's most historic towns. It's neat to imagine what Virginia City looked like when it was a bustling town in the mid-19th century. Plus, it's hard to envision horses traveling up those switchbacks instead of a stream of Mercedes.

Our club has several events already scheduled for 2022, so be sure to check out the calendar at the back of this Newsletter and RSVP to the events you'd like to attend. There are several opportunities to host a Tuesday Dinner or driving event, and you can reach out to me if you'd like to reserve a date. In early January, Vencil and I are hosting the First Tuesday Dinner at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks. Please contact me at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701 if you'd like to attend. As always, stay up to date on club events and news by following us on Facebook @SierraNevadaMBCA.



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.



Cafe Del Rio

(Continued from Page 1)

rooming house in the Comstock days, Cafe Del Rio has been serving authentic Southwest flavors since 2005.

The large group was situated at three long tables in the casual dining room, and everyone enjoyed the big windows that overlooked the street and neighboring hillside. Friends chatted about upcoming holiday plans,

Guests enjoyed chips and salsa, guacamole, nachos, tacos, enchiladas, and burritos. Several diners whet their whistles with a well-deserved beer after the long, steep

(Continued on Page 4)



and while some are traveling far to visit family, others described more low-key plans. Everyone was in agreement, however, that the upcoming Sierra Nevada Club Christmas Party is a much-anticipated event on the calendar.

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Cafe Del Rio

(Continued from Page 3)

ascend up into the foothills. The service was friendly and attentive, and the club was happy to patronize such an accommodating establishment.

After lunch, a few club members kept the fun going at the nearby Bucket of Blood Saloon. The famous tavern's lively house band, David



John and the Comstock Cowboys, was playing that day, filling the Bucket of Blood with authentic Western music. The club even saw a few

townspeople walking along the street dressed up in authentic Western wear. It's unsure if they were locals or visitors, but it surely added some historical accuracy to the day.

The next event will be the Annual Christmas Party at Glen Eagles in Carson City on December 15. RSVP to this event by contacting Ray Rich at rayrich@sbcglobal.net or (775) 560-9592. Make sure to send in your checks ASAP, as seating is limited for this popular event. Dinners and drives 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.



SIERRA NEVADA MBCA



Christmas PARTY

AT GLEN EAGLES RESTAURANT

3700 N Carson Street, Carson City

6p.m. Wednesday, December 15

Staying the night?
Holiday Inn Express
4055 N. Carson St.
Rooms for \$109
mention Mercedes Club
(775) 283-4055

\$75 PER PERSON, PRE-PAY EVENT

ENTRÉE CHOICES...

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King Salmon

Lemon Beurre Blanc Sauce, Wild Rice Pilaf, & Vegetables



Chicken Chardonnay

Rich Mushroom Cream Sauce, Mashed Potato, & Vegetables

entrées are per-person & include salad, cheesecake dessert, & coffee

Mail Checks to Ray Rich, 9826 Ash Meadow Drive, Reno NV 89521
Checks Payable to SNMBCA ☎ for info: (775) 560-9592 or rayrich@sbcglobal.net



THE ALL NEW 2022 MERCEDES-AMG SL.

New Mercedes-AMG SL

Highly Anticipated Seventh-Generation Roadster is Reborn

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Mercedes®-Benz has finally released images and specs of the all-new Mercedes-AMG SL. Over the years, the story of the Mercedes SL has become somewhat of a legend. Introduced as a grand touring sports car in the 1950s, the SL, or sport-leicht in Ger-

man, originally was not intended to have a street version. However, the booming personal luxury car market that followed World War II meant that wealthy performance car enthusiasts were looking for Grand Prix-style toys. In 1954, the 300 SL was born, and it featured iconic gullwing doors. A few years later, a roadster with larger pas-

senger doors and form-fitting headlamps was produced.

Fast forward to present day, and the Mercedes SL has undergone quite a transformation. Not only is it sportier and more technologically advanced, but it also has been renamed the Mercedes-AMG SL. The seventh generation of the SL-Class has the model code R232, and replaces the 2012 version of the R231. It has two versions, the SL 55 and SL 63, both with 4.0-liter V8 biturbo gasoline engines and a nine-speed automatic AMG speedshift with a race start launch-control function. The SL55 has 469 horsepower and 516 lbs./ft. of torque. The SL63 has 577 horsepower and 590 lb./ft. of torque. Both versions are only available with AMG 4MATIC+ all-wheel-drive, making it the first SL-Class version to have this specification. The Mercedes-AMG SL also comes with high-tech options such as the AMG ACTIVE RIDE CONTROL suspension with active roll stabilization, rear-axle steer-

(Continued on Page 7)





New Mercedes-AMG SL

(Continued from Page 6)

ing, and the optional AMG ceramic high-performance composite brake system. The new SL is also slated to receive AMG's E Performance plug-in

hybrid system, which combines the V8 with an electric motor powering the rear wheels.

The Mercedes-AMG SL is also the

first generation of the SL-Class to have two rear seats as the standard configuration. Previous versions had the op-

(Continued on Page 9)



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of Reno





New Mercedes-AMG SL

(Continued from Page 7)

tion to include rear passenger seats, but they were a retrofit kit rather than a standard option. In addition to the sporty, low seats in the front of the chassis, the Mercedes-AMG SL's two additional rear seats have fixed backrests, making it a great option for drivers who need a seat for a child once in a while.

The symmetrical dashboard has a 12.3" digital instrument cluster and a 11.9" touchscreen panel. The instrument panel is designed to reduce sunlight reflections, and the touchscreen panel can be electrically tilted, allowing for maximum personalization for each

driver. The new SL comes with the full spectrum of Mercedes driver-assistance technology features. These include augmented video navigation, DISTRONIC PLUS[®] adaptive cruise control, active steering assist, and automated parking. The active brake assist now watches for oncoming traffic when turning, and a new exit warning system alerts occupants that are exiting the car to vehicles approaching from behind.

The Mercedes-AMG SL switches the old folding metal roof and heavy hydraulic system to a fabric-lined roof and electric motor. This upgrade saves almost 50 lbs. and lowers the center of gravity for improved handling. In 15 seconds, the driver can go from top to convertible, even at speeds of up to 37 mph.

The Mercedes-AMG is now entirely developed in Affalterbach, Germany, for the first time in its history. The luxury vehicle has a powerful drive train, excel-

lent aerodynamics, and a lightweight construction that comes together to form an efficient, intelligent design. It combines an ultra-modern, comfortable chassis with sporty engineering to create a first-class driving experience. The overall look of the car is smoother and rounder than its predecessors, thanks to a larger cabin, a shorter hood length, and a stubbier tail. Nearly 5" have been added in between the axles, increasing the wheelbase from 101.7" to 106.3". Cargo space remains the same, at 8.5 cu.ft., although it's slightly smaller when the soft-top roof is stored inside.

Since the 1950s, the SL has been an icon in the performance and luxury vehicle markets. Now, AMG has taken Mercedes' tradition of creating outstanding, state-of-the-art vehicles even further with the new SL. The new Mercedes-AMG SL is a performance luxury vehicle that combines modern comfort with forward-thinking technology and safety. We have yet to see a definitive price tag, but expect to see the 2022 Mercedes-AMG SL on dealership floors early next year. 



Barney Lovelace

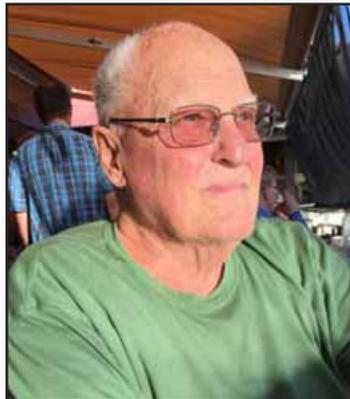
In Memory of Our Fellow Club Member

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Barney Lovelace passed away on September 26, 2021, in Reno, Nevada, following a short, unexpected illness. He was a loving husband, father, and member of the community, and he made an impact on every person he met throughout his long life. He will be greatly missed, particularly by his fellow members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America.

Barney Lovelace was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1937 to two Stanford University-educated parents. Barney followed in his intellectual parents' footsteps by attending San José State, where he met his future wife, Beth, in 1959. The young couple married in 1960, and enjoyed an exciting, fulfilling partnership for 61 happy years.



Barney lived his life as a salesperson, and vowed early on to never be anyone's employee. "I want to be my

own boss," he once said. Boy did he stick to that. He never worked for anyone else, just himself.

After college, he sold real estate, then became a real estate developer. He also found success in the insurance business. Always the clever businessman, Barney and Beth even owned agricultural property in Turlock, California, including the first kiwi fruit farm in the United States. "Since our season is the exact opposite of New Zealand, the largest exporter of the berry, we made the kiwi a popular fruit to grow in the United States."

Barney and his family moved from California to Nevada in 1980, after spending a few years in Roseville, California, where their two younger children graduated high school. Barney and Beth built a house in Lake Tahoe in 1982, where they spent 25 years, before relocating to the Reno area. For the last 15 years of his life, Barney was known as "The Medicare Guy," as he was well known for selling the health insurance program in Washoe County and surrounding areas.

"His first love was skiing," expressed Beth. Barney even spent some of his youth as a ski instructor in Sun Valley, Idaho. For the last few years, however, Barney and Beth enjoyed pickleball with each other and their friends. Barney was always so athletic, even in the last year of his life.

Barney is survived by his wife, Beth; their three children, Zack Lovelace, Jeff Lovelace, and Molly Ronco; and three grandchildren.



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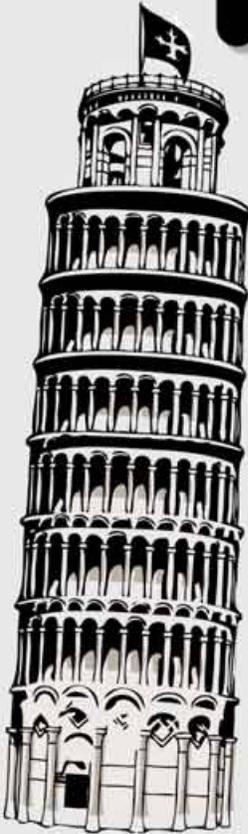
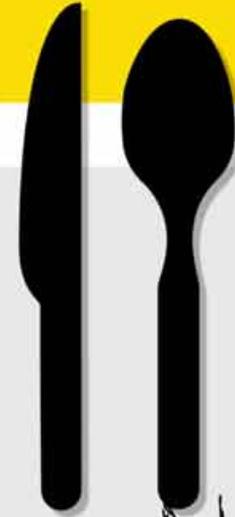
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ITALIAN DINNER

Presented by the Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club



**First Tuesday Dinner
January 4 at 5:30
Pietro's Famiglia
Restaurant**

**834 Victorian Ave.
Suite 200
in Downtown Sparks
order off the menu
separate checks**



Hosted by Gail & Vence Wells • head-count needed for restaurant

RSVP to Gail TEXT CALL 307.763.1701 or blackswan342@gmail.com



National Automobile Museum
10 South Lake Street
Reno, NV 89501-1558
775.333.9300

You're invited to the National Automobile Museum's 2021 Holiday Party. Please join us on Thursday, December 9, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Food will be served, and drinks will be available at a cash bar. MANIA, one of the area's best Beatles tribute bands, will be performing throughout the night.

This has been a very exciting year for the National Automobile Museum. We have two new exhibits, a new Cars of the Stars display, and an updated event banquet room. Come celebrate with music, food, friends, and fun.

The cost to attend is \$20 per person, and tickets can be purchased at www.automuseum.org or over the phone at (775) 333-9300. We can't wait to celebrate the holidays with all of you and close out a fantastic year.

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Phil MacDougall

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(775) 771-1080 or marc.v.dodson@gmail.com

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

December 15, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA Christmas Party, hosted by Ray Rich, Glen Eagles, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Ray Rich at rayrich@sbcglobal.net or (775) 560-9592

January 4, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Pietro's Famiglia, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

January 14-16, 2022: Mesquite Motor Mania 2022, Mesquite, Nevada. www.mesquitecarshows.com, (702) 348-5512

February 8, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA Second Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, The Grill, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

February 23-27, 2022: Portland International Auto Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon. www.portlandautoshow.com, (503) 233-5044

March 1, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Mi Casa Too, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

March 10-13, 2022: Silicon Valley Auto Show, San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, California. www.svautoshow.com, (408) 437-7557

March 18-20, 2022: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, Shoreline Cottages, Fort Bragg, California. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

July 29-30, 2022: Hot August Nights, Virginia City, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956

Advertisement of the Month

Santa Makes a Skink...



What happens when all those milk and cookies catch up with Santa on his big night? He gets busted like never before. This funny Christmas themed commercial was made by PooPourri. To watch the humorous advertisement, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

Ho Ho... Oh?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9TTz3R5SmI>



Working Retail

Trying to Deal with Customers in a Retail Environment

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.)



In the movie *Clerks*, the character Randall Graves laments, "This job would be great if it wasn't for the f-ing customers." Working retail can be a real challenge at times. Talking with an informed customer is one thing, and educating a customer is another, but having a discourse with a customer who doesn't have a clue can really test your patience. Here are a few examples.

- ☛ A customer got mad because we don't have spaghetti on the kid's menu. I work in a Mexican restaurant.
- ☛ We ran out of medium-sized fountain drink cups at the place I work, so we were giving out large ones instead for the price of a medium. A lady flipped out and demanded that she get the drink for free since it wasn't the size that she wanted.
- ☛ We had a woman phone the office I work in, which is above a grocery store, to complain that when she cut into her orange, the juice fell out. She wanted a replacement.
- ☛ A guy accused me of harassing him because I kicked him out of the store after the third time he stole from us. He then called the cops.
- ☛ I work at a large sandwich deli. One time a woman complained that we made her sandwich "much too fast" and refused to eat it.

☛ A woman bought a white shirt. She then spilled red soda onto the shirt. To fix the stain she used a tide-to-go pen. She rubbed so hard it tore a hole in the fabric. Her husband tried to return it after they stained and tore the garment, claiming that it must have been a manufacturing problem.

☛ We had a customer complain that the axe he bought was too sharp, stating that, "Nobody needs an axe that sharp."

☛ We had a customer who kept complaining that the ice in her drink wouldn't stay at the bottom of the glass. I tried to explain that it's not physically possible. She kept asking if I was stupid.

☛ I once managed the front desk of a recreational center, and this one parent yelled at me for a class starting without her kid. They were 45 minutes late.

☛ I work at a library. A patron comes in and knocks books off their shelves then turned to me and said, "Pick them up. I pay your salary."

☛ I worked in a sandwich/wing place several years ago and had a woman order hot wings for delivery. After they were delivered, she called raging, "those hot wings made her baby cry." The manager politely offered to send her mild instead.

☛ I work in a burger joint. One particular evening I had a table of college kids. I took their order, which was mostly quite simple. One of the girls ordered a portobello and swiss burger. A little while later, the girl is visibly upset and is demanding a different sandwich. I ask if there's something wrong and she tells me her burger has mushrooms on it.

☛ I used to work security at a casino and a couple came up to me and told me there was a man following them. I asked if they knew him and they replied, "Yes, he's the loan shark we borrowed \$2,500 from two weeks ago." Needless to say, they were escorted safely to their car and barred for a year.

☛ I work at a bank inside of a grocery store. The customer was very upset that they couldn't buy their toilet paper and Doritos® at the teller window.

☛ A woman managed to spill gasoline all over herself at the gas station I worked at and demanded we pay for new clothing.

☛ While working at a coffee shop, a lady ordered a large caramel macchiato with extra caramel and heated to 180°. Long story short, she eventually came in with her own thermometer and showed us that her drink wasn't at its optimal temperature; it was 175°.

☛ After I served the food, a customer said, "I don't want grilled chicken, I want fried, I'm watching my fat intake."

☛ My friend told Wendy's he would like a round burger because it kept poking him in the face through the buns.

☛ Someone once told my friend her popcorn shrimp tasted too much like shrimp.

☛ At our garden center, a customer complained that, "Some of your plants are wet."

☛ We had a woman come in to our restaurant absolutely fuming and demanding a refund because she couldn't understand why a large meal cost more than a medium. ☾