

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • April 2023



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BASQUE DINNER
APRIL 11, 2023
(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



iFiesta!

Festive & Fun Mexican Dinner in Reno

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



March's First Tuesday Dinner took the Sierra Nevada Section back to one of Reno's favorite spots out on Fourth Street. Mi Casa Too has been a long-standing local establishment, serving the Reno area for over 30 years. The Sierra Nevada Section has enjoyed many First Tuesday Dinners at this friendly Mexican restaurant, and everyone is al-

ways happy to go back. Mi Casa Too was buzzing with energy, and the focus of the conversations was the amount of snow the Sierra Nevada had received.

On this particular night, 25 members of the club, including a few new faces, gathered for authentic Mexican food and delicious margaritas. Members from as far away as Minden made the journey, and they were excited to see

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Hopping into Spring Warming Up in the Sierra Nevada

After what feels like one of the longest winters of my life, springtime in the Sierra Nevada might finally be making an appearance. With all of this recent wet weather, I'm sure we can rely on some extra flowers popping up around the valley as we change seasons. Vencil and I were able to take advantage of a break between storms to visit out-of-town friends, but we're happy to be back in our beloved town now. We are all excited for what the Sierra Nevada Section has planned these upcoming months.

Early last month, Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted the club at MiCasa Too in Reno for a First Tuesday Dinner. It was a fantastic evening and several club members stayed late to enjoy margaritas and friendly conversations. Our club's monthly dinners are always a wonderful way to catch up with friends and meet new members.

Linda and Rick Iknoian are hosting the club next week on April 11 at J.T.

Basque Bar and Dining Room in Gardnerville. If you've never had a traditional Basque feast, then you are in for a treat. Be sure to RSVP for this event and bring your appetite with you. To reserve your spot at this legendary restaurant, please reach out to Linda Iknoian at linda_iknoian@comcast.net or (559) 978-6628.

Between the snow and rain that has kept us all cooped up these first few months of 2023, I am beyond thrilled to see an overnight drive on the calendar. Join Sue and Marc Dodson on May 6 as they trek to Winnemucca for a Kentucky Derby viewing party. Be sure to RSVP to Marc so that you can get your room and seat at the dinner table reserved. He can be reached at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080.

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.

**TUESDAY
APRIL 11**



5:30PM

SECOND TUESDAY DINNER IN APRIL

BASQUE *dinner*

at **JT BASQUE BAR & DINING ROOM**
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iFiesta!

(Continued from Page 1)

friends after being snowed in for several days. Guests mingled in the bar area before everyone was seated for dinner at two long tables in the festive

dining room. Chips and salsa were enjoyed before the main courses came out, and some tables upgraded to house-made guacamole.

Standout dishes were beef and chicken enchiladas, carne asada tacos, sizzling fajitas platters, chile rellenos,

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¡Fiesta!

(Continued from Page 4)

tostadas, quesadillas, nachos, and taco salads. The tequila was flowing, with almost everyone enjoying margaritas alongside wine and Mexican-style beers. Club members with a sweet tooth enjoyed deep-fried ice cream, sopapillas, and flan.

The next Second Tuesday Dinner is April 11 at J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room in Gardnerville, Nevada. Those that haven't enjoyed a traditional Basque feast before are in for a treat. There is nothing quite like sharing a table of authentic Basque food with a group of friends. To RSVP, please reach out to Linda Iknoian at linda_iknoian@comcast.net or (559) 978-6628. 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 First Tuesday Dinner or

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

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EQE Price Tag

Mercedes Has Revealed Trim Options for All-Electric SUV

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

In 2022, we reported on the breakthrough new Mercedes-Benz all-electric SUV, the highly anticipated EQE. The E-class line is part of Mercedes' plan to electrify its fleet in response to growing demand for electric vehicles worldwide. Well, Mercedes recently released the pricing structure for the all-electric EQE SUV, including its three powertrain options.

The single-motor rear-wheel-drive 350+ model will be priced exactly the same as the dual-motor all-wheel-drive 350 4Matic at \$79,050. This price in-

cludes a \$1,150 destination charge. The EQE 500 4Matic SUV has a price tag of \$90,650, which is \$11,600 more than the 350 models. For this option, you're paying for higher performance, an AMG exterior package, 20" wheels, leather upholstery, and a 10° rear-axle steering system.

The rear-wheel-drive 350+ has 288 horsepower and 417 pound-feet of torque, while the all-wheel-drive 350 4Matic has the same horsepower but 564 pound-feet of torque. The 350+ is going to hit 60 mph in 6.3 seconds, and the 4Matic will get there in 6.2. The 500

4Matic SUV employs more powerful motors, allowing the vehicle to get to 60 mph in 4.6 seconds using 536 horsepower and 633 pound-feet of torque.

These above EQE SUV prices are for the premium trim, but there is also an exclusive and pinnacle trim option. For the exclusive option, customers can expect a steeper price at \$81,150 for the 350 models and \$92,750 for the 500. The exclusive trim adds extra driver assistance options, active ambient lighting, and Mercedes' trick augmented reality navigation.

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EQE Price Tag

(Continued from Page 8)

For the pinnacle trim, it goes up to \$84,750 for the 350 models and \$96,350 for the 500. The pinnacle trim adds a digital light headlight package, four-zone climate control, an enhanced air purification system, head-up display, faster USB



charging, Mercedes' Energizing Comfort infotainment programs, and door light projectors.

Mercedes has yet to confirm whether the EQE SUV will qualify for the recently revised American tax credit, but we hope to know more soon. At the time of publication, Mercedes is not listed as a qualified clean vehicle manufacturer on the Internal Revenue Service electric vehicle manufactur-

ers site. The EQE SUV is going to be built in Alabama, with a locally made battery pack, so hopefully it qualifies soon. Keep your eyes peeled for the EQE SUV, as it's poised to hit dealerships this spring.



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Museum Day



Ghost Army Exhibit **May 24** at Nevada Museum of Art

Learn about the tactical deception unit of the US Army. Armed with nothing heavier than .50 caliber machine guns, the top-secret unit took part in 22 large-scale deceptions & fooled German forces during World War II's final year.

Join the Sierra Nevada Section at the Nevada Museum of Art on May 24, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. for a guided tour of the Ghost Army exhibit followed by lunch at the museum cafe.

May is Older Americans Month, so Seniors get in FREE!

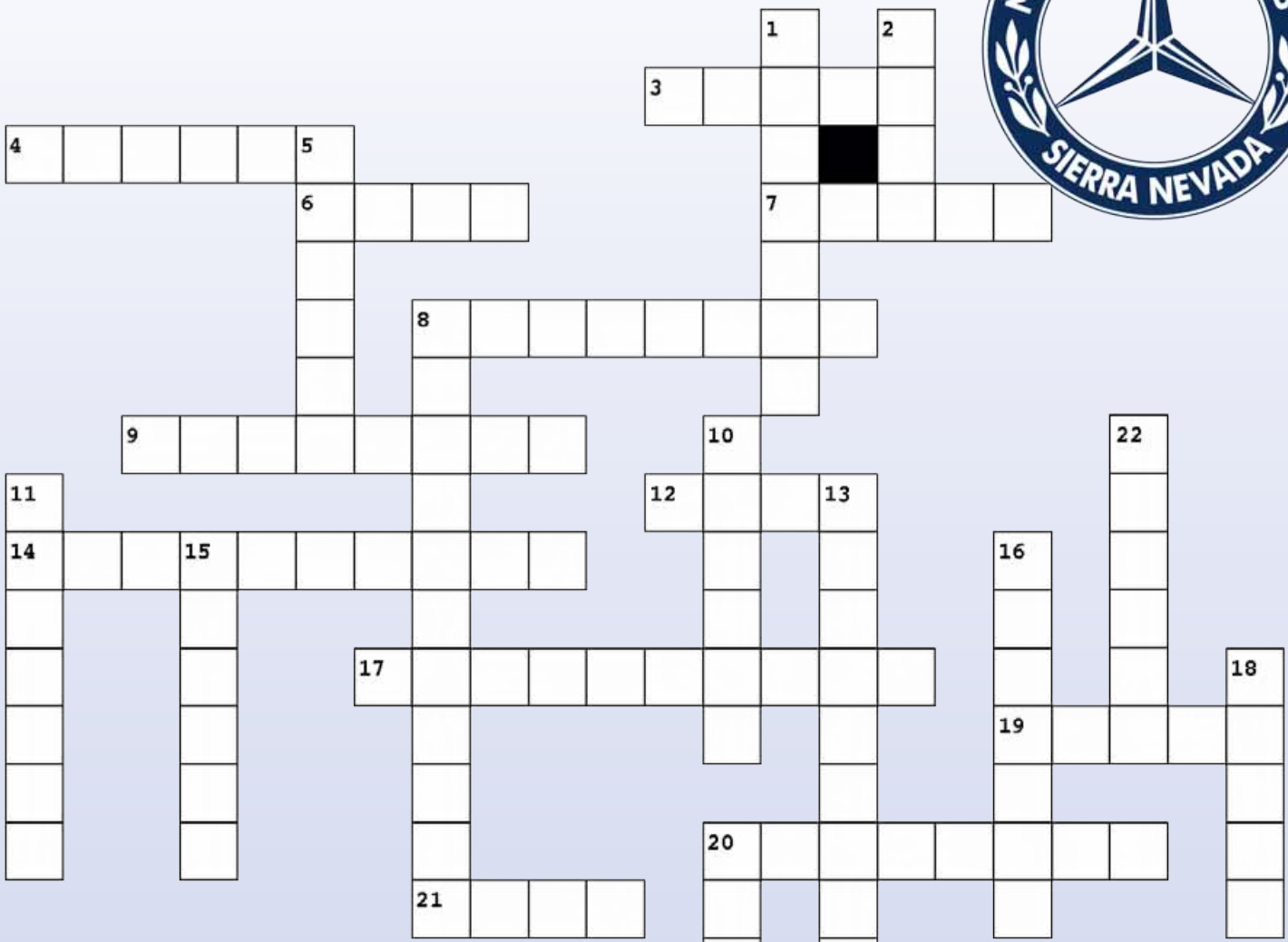


Nevada Museum of Art is located at
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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. Little deuce
- 4. Wheel cover
- 6. Cutlass 442
- 7. Daddy took her what away
- 8. Pontiac or salad dressing
- 9. Auto repair person
- 12. GPS replaced these
- 14. Car interior
- 17. Barry's latest project
- 19. Charged performance
- 20. Dead man's curve car
- 21. The Easter Bunny leaves candy in these
- 22. Chevy's retro pickup

DOWN

- 1. Ford pony
- 2. Chrysler's innovative V8
- 5. Brighten stainless steel
- 8. Rag top
- 10. Repair book
- 11. Quiets exhaust
- 13. Winged stock car
- 15. Fuel rating
- 16. Auto power source
- 18. Beach Boy wagon
- 20. Worn by women in 50's cars
- 22. Spring holiday that features chocolate eggs

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



LEFT: THE CAR THAT MAY HAVE STARTED THE MUTED COLOR MOVEMENT. AUDI AFICIONADOS LIKE THE WAY NARDO GRAY BLENDS SEAMLESSLY WITH THE DRAB BACKGROUND & COMPLEMENTS THE POOP COLOR OF THE DIRT.



Fifty Shades of Gray

Can We Please Bring Back the Shine?

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

Selecting a color for your new vehicle is one of the most important choices you make during the car-buying process. You probably have a favorite color, as well as a least favorite. Is your favorite color wet mud, because mine certainly isn't. Unfortunately for contemporary car buyers, a new style of car paint has become popular in recent years. Muted earth tones in shades of gray, tan, and brown are popping up across manufacturers' assembly lines, and they all reject the shiny, metallic paint that many of us have always loved. When I see a muted pale blue or tan on, what would otherwise be a beautiful car, it makes me cringe. You, too might be asking, what's up with these new, bland colors?

Automakers claim that consumers are drawn to colors that represent harmony with nature and embody a sense of adventure. Beige Jeeps, for example, might evoke a tactical, militaristic feeling. A cream, ecru, or chalk-colored Mercedes-Benz might have a calming, soothing, natural vibe for another consumer. High-gloss reds, metallic silvers, and

shiny pearl whites have seemingly gone by the wayside, and many of us are in mourning.

It all seemed to start in 2013 when Audi debuted Nardo gray on its four-door RS 7 coupe. Audi claimed it was the first solid gray on the market, and it didn't come with a single sparkle. Jeep released a special color called Gobi, which was a subtle shade of tan meant to emulate Asia's massive desert. Its limited release caused quite a stir, and frenzied Jeep enthusiasts flocked to the dealerships to purchase the Wrangler while the color was still available. For Hyundai, blue stone and sage gray are among the quickest-selling colors out of the many that the company offers. These muted colors still have a shiny clear-coat, but they lack pop or a beep color. It's as if someone added white paint to an existing non-metallic color.

Another paint scheme still gaining in popularity is non-shiny matte paint. The theory about the origin of matte colors stems from the increase in after-market body shop

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Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across	17. Studebaker	8. Convertible
3. Coupe	19. Turbo	10. Manual
4. Hubcap	20. Stingray	11. Muffler
6. Olds	21. Eggs	13. Superbird
7. T-Bird	22. SSR	15. Octane
8. Catalina	Down	16. Battery
9. Mechanic	1. Mustang	18. Woody
12. Maps	2. Hemi	20. Skirts
14. Upholstery	5. Polish	22. Easter



LEFT: A MUTED COLOR SEEN HERE ON A TOYOTA TACOMA. BELOW: MATTE PAINT ON A BMW. I GUESS IT'S TRUE, YOU CAN'T POLISH A TURD.



Fifty Shades of Gray

(Continued from Page 13)

modifications. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, car owners were adding body kits and other accessories to their vehicle's exteriors. In order to do this, body shops would spray paint the car with a primer, usually in the color of white, gray, or black, and then a paint

job would be the final step. For some, the matte primer color turned out to be the preferred style instead of a traditional shiny or metallic paint job. A protective, full-body wrap is another way this matte look was achieved during this time period.

Automakers took notice of what was happening after their cars were being sold, and to them it meant that consumers were no longer equating sparkle with excellence. Sportiness and self-confidence were now being tied to

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THE MUTED COLOR TREND HAS CAUGHT ON & MAY NOT BE GOING AWAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Fifty Shades of Gray

(Continued from Page 14)

muted earth tones, as well as the ability to look good in a natural environment. It's a divergence from the flashy aluminum and sparkly finishes many of us still love.

"I think people are taking a baby step forward in car color choice risk," said Spike Feresten, car collector and podcast host of *Spike's Car Radio*. "They realize they've been in the big four, black, gray, white, or silver, and they want to try to spice it up a little. So, they take a baby step into chalk."

For the majority of Americans, a whopping 75% of new cars are sold in shades of white, gray, black, and silver. According to Axalta®, a supplier of automotive paints and powder coatings, these muted, natural colors have opened the door to more vibrant colors, too. Also, with the surge in EVs on the market, the green light around the charge port has influenced electric colors as paint options. In fact, Axalta named ElectroLight, a vivid chartreuse, as its 2021 Global Automotive Color of the Year.


Trends might be changing again, though, as automotive color trends experts at chemicals company BASF predict more equilibrium between natural and synthetic colors in the next few years. Gray has grown in popularity, and coppery brown has emerged as a new trend, too. White pearl and metallic are still the color of choice for luxury vehicles, and this is unlikely to change.

Furthermore, not only are car colors a fantastic way to showcase your own personality, but they can also have an effect on your chances of getting into an accident. According to Kelley Blue Book®, white and silver are the two most popular car colors on the road. Of those two, white has the highest safety rating and is 12% less likely to be involved in an automobile accident than black cars, regardless of the time of day.

The reason behind this isn't anything surprising. White is simply easier to see than black, even in the daytime. In-



creased visibility by other drivers on the road means a lower risk of being hit. With this in mind, it should be no surprise that yellow has been shown in some studies to be the safest car color overall. Don't get me wrong, there's no way I'd pass on a nice, shiny silver or black paint job for a yellow one.

Sure, chartreuse and hot pink sound fun, but experts and car consumers can agree that what's popular today will not be popular in five years. This means that when it comes time to sell your neon blue Audi or baked clay Jeep, you might run into a hypothetical roadblock. I would hazard to guess, however, that metallic silver and shiny black will make an emergence once again as the most coveted paint colors sooner rather than later. You simply can't beat the elegance of a lustrous, polished-looking vehicle. 

ITEMS of INTEREST

EVENTS

Sierra Nevada MBCA Name Badges

We encourage all members to wear their MBCA name badges to all Sierra Nevada section meetings and events.

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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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To Purchase a badge you have to log in to mbca.org before you can find it. Once you are logged in, you can go to "Store" in the upper right, then click on "Event Equipment Store" near the bottom. On the following page you will see name badges that go for \$14, or you can call MBCA at (800) 637-2360.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.

April 11, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Second Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Linda & Rick Iknoian, J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room, Gardnerville, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Linda Iknoian at linda_iknoian@comcast.net or (559) 978-6628

May 6-7, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive & Kentucky Derby Party, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, Winnemucca Inn & Casino, Winnemucca, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

May 24, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Museum Day, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

June 6, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Wild River Grille, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

July 5, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Lynn & Terry Nielsen, Gambi's, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Lynn Nielsen at nielsenreno@live.com or (775) 747-9924

July 15, 2023: Sierra Nevada Annual Summer Backyard Luau, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777

August 1, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Red's Old 395 Grill, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701

September 5, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

Video of the Month

Music Video Filmed at Mercedes Museum...



If you're into classic cars, race cars, or cars of the future, the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart just may be your dream destination. Interestingly, if you're a fan of 70's British rock band T. Rex, then you might also be happy to find out that one of their music videos has been filmed inside the museum.

The music video for *Bang a Gong (Get It On)* starts with a ballerina dancing her

way through the museum, and various types of Mercedes cars serve as her backdrop. She prances down the brightly lit stairs, all while T. Rex's hit song accompanies her graceful moves. Eventually a full-on dance party emerges as the music picks up energy. It makes sense for the video to be filmed at the museum, as one of the lyrics is, "You're built like a car, you've got a hub cap diamond star halo." Thanks to member Jim Petruk for submitting this rocking video of the month. To watch the video, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF1qfLMczNo>



IN CLOSING

Street Signs

They May Be Official, but Do They Make Sense?

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.)

Somehow, these official street signs made it through the approval process. Maybe the approval committee consisted of one person, maybe they were modified after the fact, or maybe the municipality just has a sense of humor. Either way, these signs are out there.

