

The SILVER STAR



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



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MUSEUM DAY

MAY 24, 2023

(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



J.T. Basque

Family-Style Feast at Beloved Restaurant in Gardnerville

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



For April's Tuesday Dinner, Linda and Rick Iknnoian brought the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America back to J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room in Gardnerville. Much like last year's trek out to this community staple, this April pre-paid dinner included 28 members of the club who all enjoyed a family-style meal together. J.T. Basque has been voted as the best Basque restaurant in the Carson Valley for more than a decade running, and it is a favorite spot amongst locals.

J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room is a Nevada icon, with roots in Gardnerville extending back more than 50 years. The Lekumberry family immigrated to the area from the Basque Pyrénées in France, purchased the former historic hotel and dining hall, and reimagined it as the restaurant it is to this day.

Before the dinner started, club members gathered in the bar to enjoy various refreshments. The bar was quite crowded, a testament to how popular the restaurant is amongst locals and vis-

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PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



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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.

Blooming Warm Weather & Sunny Sierra Skies

At last, I think it's safe to say that the warm weather is here to stay. We surely have had our fill of the cold and snow for the remainder of the year. I'd be happy if we didn't have any more snow until Santa Claus is coming to town. Now that summer is knocking on our door, the Sierra Nevada Section has a truly fantastic calendar laid out in front of us.

First, let's look back at April, which was a fun month for our club. Linda and Rick Iknoian hosted a traditional family-style dinner at J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room in Gardnerville. This was a return trip to J.T.'s for many people in the group, and we were all excited to share traditional Basque food and catch up with each other.

This upcoming weekend, Sue and Marc Dodson are hosting the club on an overnight drive to the Winnemucca Hotel and Casino for a Kentucky Derby Party. It will be an event full of mint juleps, delicious potluck food, and the greatest two

minutes in sports. Be sure to bring your finest Kentucky Derby attire.

Vencil and I are hosting the club at the Nevada Museum of Art in Downtown Reno on May 24 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 for free. There is still room for anyone who wants to join, simply send me an email or text message.

As the weather continues to warm up, I hope to see even more of you at our club events. Remember that you can bring friends and family, as we have plenty of room for everyone in our group. Also, if you have ideas as to what can make our club even better than it already is, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

Gail Wells
President



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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or email blackswan342@gmail.com





J.T. Basque

(Continued from Page 1)

itors. Many guests enjoyed the Picon punch, a traditional Basque cocktail made with Amer Picon, soda water, grenadine, lemon, and brandy. Picons

may have been the drink of the night, but people also enjoyed Manhattans, wine, and a few diet Cokes.

J.T. Basque served up its well-known

traditional plates, which included a choice of top sirloin steak, spaghetti and meatballs, Basque chicken, sweet-

(Continued on Page 5)



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J.T. Basque

(Continued from Page 4)

bread, pig's feet with tripe, and lamb chops. The family-style dinner included soup, salad, stew, beans, and French fries for everyone to enjoy. The large group was situated at a massive, long table in a separate dining room. A dedicated waitress continuously brought out large plates of food while simultaneously refilling water glasses and taking cocktail, wine, and beer orders. After the main courses were enjoyed, everyone was given a small bowl of vanilla ice cream to round out the delicious dinner.

The popular topic of the evening was simply how much everyone was enjoying the warmer weather. Pretty much every club member commiserated over the never-ending winter and welcomed the rising temperatures with open arms. The club stayed late into the evening and many guests traveled back into town in the dark. J.T. Basque lured members from all over the area, from Lake Tahoe all the way to Antelope Valley.

The next First Tuesday Dinner is June 6 at Wild River Grille in Reno. If you need more information about this event

or would like to RSVP, please reach out to Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (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 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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2024 E-Class

Camouflaged E-Class Spied on German Streets Ahead of Debut

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Our reporter spotted two prototypes of the 2024 Mercedes-Benz E-Class with different grille designs driving in German traffic in April. The fully camouflaged version had been spotted weeks earlier, but we were able to obtain recent spy shots of the E-Class with minimal disguise.

The Mercedes-Benz E-Class is the German automaker's range of luxury, executive cars. The line is available in a variety of engine and body configurations, and has been one of Mercedes'

best-selling models over the past few decades. It was originally available as a four-door sedan, five-door station wagon, two-door coupe, and two-door convertible. For Mercedes consumers, the E-Class marries luxury with advanced safety features, making the car one of the top-selling vehicles for the manufacturer.

The first E-Class was actually a modified W124, and it was debuted in 1993. Over the years, the E-Class Mercedes made major changes to its image, including larger headlights, a longer and wider chassis, and more interior room.

The Mercedes-Benz E-Class was named the *Motor Trend* Car of the Year in 1996.

In the years that followed, Mercedes updated the E-Class with top-of-the-line safety features, such as a blind spot monitor, Lane Keeping Assist, Pre-safe with Attention Assist, and Night View Assist Plus. Styling changes and fuel economy improvements further enhanced the E-Class over the years. The fifth-generation E-Class debuted in 2016 and unveiled a curvier, more flowing model. At that time, it was the second-most technologically advanced Mercedes, after the S-Class.

This new E-Class is the sixth generation of the popular line. Beginning with this generation, Mercedes coupes and convertibles will no longer be labeled as E-Class models, and both the E-Class and C-Class coupes will have their own CLE-Class label. This leaves the E-Class with its very own four-door sedan and station wagon as its flagship offerings.

Our spy shots have also determined that the new E-Class has adopted pop-out door handles from its brother, the flagship S-Class. The car's power will

(Continued on Page 8)





2024 E-Class

(Continued from Page 7)


come from an assortment of four and six-cylinder engines, some being mild hybrids and others part of a plug-in hybrid drivetrain. The AMG version will lose its current twin-turbo 4.0-liter V8 and instead adopt a straight six-cylinder with an electric motor. Rumor has it that Mercedes engineers are aiming for over 700 horsepower and a whopping 884 pound-ft. of torque.

The new E-Class will have a dazzling display of technological features, including 5G connectivity, AI assistance, and a built-in camera. The interior is described internally as



sporty, high quality, and digital. A high-res gauge cluster and central display affixed to the dashboard will be standard features. A modified version of the Hyperscreen is available, as well as a third screen for the front-seat passenger. A 4D surround system is standard on the E-Class, and there is an upgraded option for Active Ambient Lighting, which adjusts the interior lighting to what the car's system perceives as the mood of the music. This also includes a strobing feature that

flashes in sync with the beat. If that sounds too chaotic for you, there's always the more relaxing option of the Mercedes Energizing Comfort wellness program, which includes soothing sounds, seat massage, lighting, and more.

Estimated pricing stands at \$60,000 for the E350 sedan and \$68,000 for the E450 sedan. Our reporters will keep an eye on this developing story and let our readers know when the new E-Class lineup is set to hit dealership floors. 

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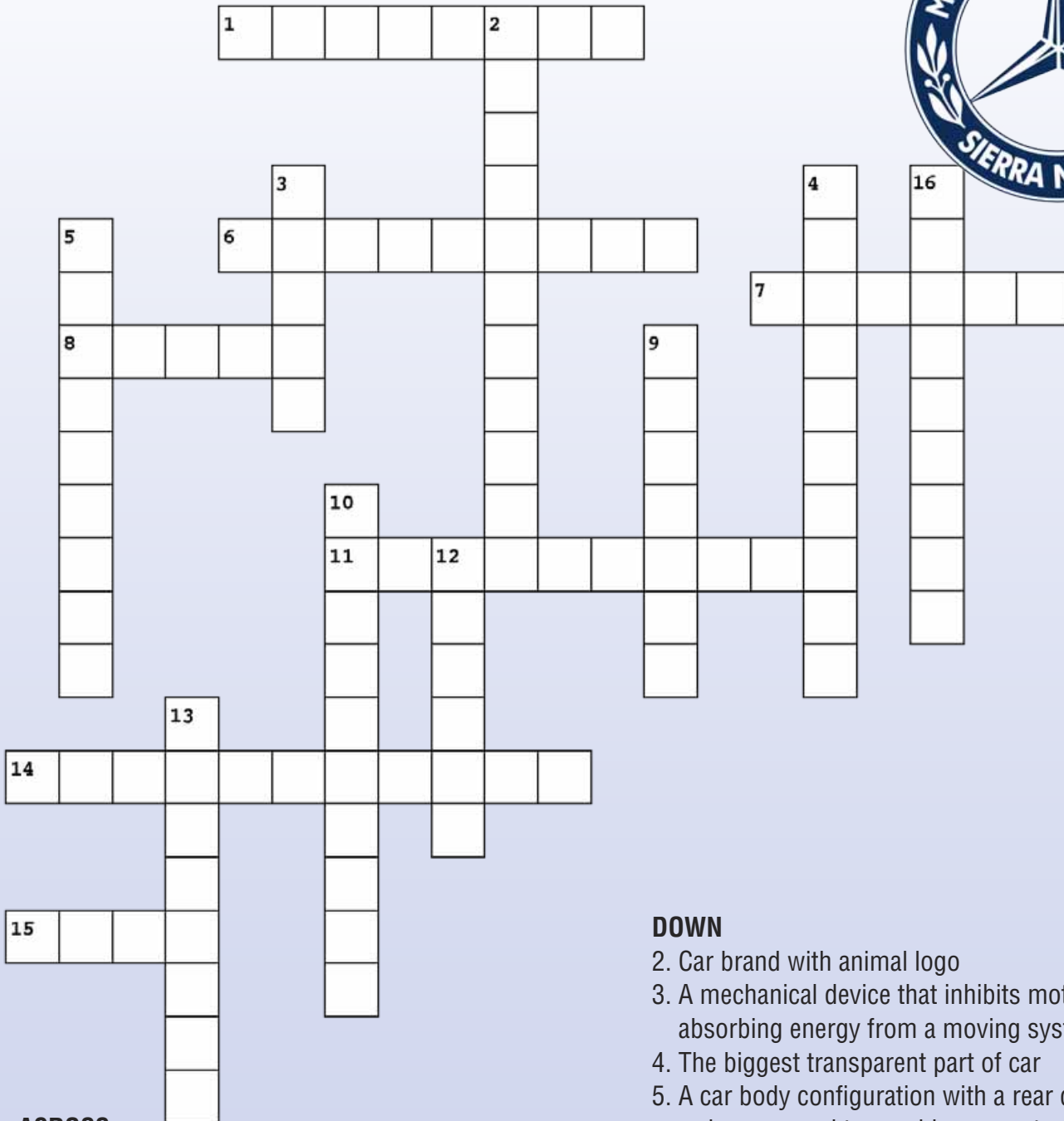
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June 6th
5:00 p.m.



Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Popular car racing competition
6. A type of low SUV-like vehicle built with unibody frame construction
7. The heart of vehicle
8. The vehicle's main storage or cargo compartment
11. An additive that lowers the freezing point of a water-based liquid
14. A gauge that measures and displays the instantaneous speed of a vehicle
15. A substance that is used to provide power

DOWN

2. Car brand with animal logo
3. A mechanical device that inhibits motion by absorbing energy from a moving system
4. The biggest transparent part of car
5. A car body configuration with a rear door that swings upward to provide access to a cargo area
9. The world's oldest car brand in existence
10. An instrument measuring the rotation speed of a shaft or disk
12. The richest car company in the world
13. A lamp attached to the front of a vehicle to illuminate the road ahead
16. Our illustrious leader

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



THE MERCEDES-BENZ TYPE 320 STREAMLINE SALOON WAS AHEAD OF ITS TIME WITH ITS AERODYNAMIC BODY & LONG FLOWING LINES.

Type 320 Streamline Saloon

Aerodynamic Body & Increased Engine Output for Touring Car

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

In February 1937, Mercedes-Benz celebrated the premiere of the Type 320 at the International Automobile and Motorcycle Exhibition in Berlin. The car debuted a new look for the German automaker, which was a stylized, streamlined body with sleek lines. The front nose of the Type 320 was a call-back to the more angular lines of the cars in the 1920s, but the rest of the vehicle was new and unique.

Many different vehicle bodies were produced for the Type 320, but the standout body style was the streamline saloon. With its shapely rear end, the Mercedes-Benz Type 320 streamline saloon was a forerunner of aerodynamic bodywork design. Nicknamed the Autobahn Courier, the Type 320 was a sight to behold on the new roadways in the 1930s.

The Type 320 was Mercedes' way of bridging the gap between medium-sized vehicles and larger vehicles. With the

3.2-liter Type 320, Mercedes was able to break into the burgeoning larger vehicle class, which already had some steep competition from other manufacturers, including the Maybach SW 38.

This new car was a further development on the existing Mercedes-Benz 290 model, which had been available beginning in 1933. The Mercedes-Benz Type 290 had an M 18 engine that delivered a modest output, but it was a great option for those looking for simple, reliable driving performance. For the Type 320, however, Mercedes engineers expanded on the engine's output without sacrificing the car's handling comfort. It also maintained its vertical valve, six-cylinder pushrod engine.

In order to make the Type 320's engine performance more robust, Mercedes engineers, under the tutelage of Albert

(Continued on Page 13)

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Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across	Down
1. Formula 1	2. Lamborghini
6. Crossover	3. Brake
7. Engine	4. Windshield
8. Trunk	5. Hatchback
11. Antifreeze	9. Peugeot
14. Speedometer	10. Tachometer
15. Fuel	12. Toyota
	13. Headlamp
	16. Gail Wells



THE UPDATED ENGINE IN THE TYPE 320 WAS INCREDIBLY QUIET WHILE RUNNING.

Type 320 Streamline Saloon

(Continued from Page 12)

Heeß, increased the cylinder bore from 78 to 82.5 millimeters. The engine's displacement was therefore increased from 2.9 to 3.2 liters, and 12 counterweights were added to the crankshaft to enhance the car's smooth driving capabilities. The existing simple updraft carburetor was changed to a dual down-draught carburetor. This allowed the car to operate with lower air velocity and larger passages, making it easier for the Type 320 to reach higher speeds and power.

Heeß and his engineers also changed the transmission in the new Type 320. Its predecessor had a four-speed transmission, but it was actually a three-speed transmission system with overdrive. For the new-and-improved Type

320, engineers installed a fully synchronized four-speed transmission system with a direct-ratio fourth gear. This new transmission was praised by consumers and car enthusiasts for its gear-shifting comfort.


Additionally, the suspension was readapted for the new, larger car. While the Type 290 had two compensating axle springs, the Type 320 employed dual-action hydraulic lever-type shock absorbers on both the front and rear axles. This greatly improved the driving comfort and handling safety, and it was at the forefront of automobile suspension design for the time.

For its premiere, Mercedes unveiled several different types of vehicle bodies for the Type 320. This included a short-

wheelbase version, a so-called combination coupe that really only saw success as a model for the German Army's kuebelwagen vehicles.

The long-wheelbase version was the successful version of the Type 320 for Mercedes-Benz. The public found the car to be reliable and safe, able to take its passengers on long-distance travels without sacrificing style and comfort. Even one of Mercedes' biggest competitors of the time, Maybach, had glowingly positive reviews of the Type 320.

"When running in idle, the Daimler-Benz engine is considerably better than ours, for it runs absolutely silently," said a sales manager for Maybach, when asked to compare the Type 320 to the Maybach 930 V sports cabriolet. "Furthermore, the clutch pedal is significantly easier to operate. As for the body, the main advantage compared with our sports cabriolet is that the Daimler-Benz motor car allows all the windows to be pulled down completely."

Mercedes vehicles would continue to offer smooth profiles into the 1940s, but the last Mercedes-Benz Type 320 were built in 1942 at the Untertürkheim and Mannheim plants. Between 1937 and 1942, a total of 6,861 of these vehicles were made, with a portion of them being designated for the German Army. 



MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA

Board of Directors Meeting

Location: J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. Directors present were: Gail Wells, President; Christy Dodson, Secretary; Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor; LaVern Lucovich, Treasurer; and Vencil Wells, Vice President.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Gail Wells confirmed there was a quorum of directors present.

MINUTES:

Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter. Christy 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 \$5,975.21 in its bank account as of April 1, 2023. Expenditures for the last quarter were \$119.84 and income was \$3,320.00.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Marcus Dodson read the Membership Report that was submitted by Marc Dodson, Membership Chair. As of April 2023, the club has 88 members. This total includes two transfers, two expired members, and zero new members. Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the Membership Report and Gail Wells seconded it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ☛ Marcus Dodson presented several options for the Christmas Party. The top three choices were ArrowCreek, Brick's, and Whitney Peak.
- ☛ The Annual Picnic and Play Event at Bartley Ranch will be *The Addams Family* and the club will try to get tickets for August 18.

SECTION EVENTS:

- ☛ Sue and Marc Dodson will host an overnight drive to the Winnemucca Hotel and Casino for a Kentucky Derby Party May 6-7.
- ☛ Gail and Vencil Wells will host the club at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno on May 24 for a guided tour of a special WWII exhibit.
- ☛ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a First Tuesday Dinner on June 6 at Wild River Grille in Reno.
- ☛ Lynn and Terry Nielsen will host a First Wednesday Dinner on July 5 at Gambi's in Reno.
- ☛ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a Luau Summer Backyard Party on July 15 at their home in Reno.
- ☛ Gail and Vencil Wells will host a First Tuesday Dinner on August 1 at Red's Old 395 Grill in Carson City.
- ☛ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a First Tuesday Dinner on September 5 at Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse in Reno.
- ☛ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a Halloween Party on October 28 at their home in Reno.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on July 28, 2023, at Christy and Marcus Dodson's home at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Christy Dodson made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Vencil Wells seconded it. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

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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.

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?"

How much would you be willing to pay for such a miracle item?

\$1,000? \$2,000? \$5,000?

Well, now you can order your Sierra Nevada MBCA name badge for a mere \$14!

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If you order in the next ten minutes you can get TWO name badges for the incredibly low price of only \$28!

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 \$14 to spend.

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.

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.c.dodson@gmail.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

August 18, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Picnic & Play at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, hosted by LaVern & Carlos Lucovich, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact LaVern Lucovich at lipinski3541@gmail.com or (775) 882-4697

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.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901

Video of the Month

Mercedes Valet Parking...

Automated driving options have been available on Mercedes-Benz vehicles for a couple of years now. In this video from 2021, we get to see a (then) new system of automated driverless parking being implemented at the Stuttgart airport. Even though the video is a couple years old, it's quite interesting to watch. In the video we watch as a 2021 Mercedes S-Class drops off its owner and then goes and parks itself. When the owner of the car is ready, the S-Class automatically drives out of the parking garage and picks up the driver at the entrance of the building. To watch the video, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j4MDcXqsq4>

IN CLOSING

Horse Power

Cars That Make These Horses Worth Looking At

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 know we feature dogs from time to time on this page, and we try to keep cats out of it, but this time it felt appropriate to highlight something with horses. Since we are featuring a horse-related event this month, these pictures just seemed to fit. So, this is for all of you horse lovers out there, and I know there's a lot of you.

