

The SILVER STAR



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



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JUNE DINNER
JUNE 6, 2023
 (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



HATS WERE WORN BY ALL DURING THE VIEWING PARTY FOR THE BIG RACE.

Kentucky Derby

Club Enjoys Hats & Horses on Overnight Drive

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



In the first weekend of May, 18 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America gathered together for a Kentucky Derby Party, hosted by Sue and Marc Dodson. Ten cars made the trek from Mercedes-Benz of Reno to the Winnemucca Inn and Casino for this year's first overnight driving event.

There was drizzling rain for part of the Saturday morning drive, but traffic was light and the roads were clear. On the way, the group stopped in Lovelock

for lunch at the Cowpoke Cafe. The club enjoyed old-fashioned country cooking at this local greasy spoon, including burgers, patty melts, French dips, Philly cheese steaks, chicken sandwiches, jumbo beef hot dogs, curly fries, onion rings, and more.

Once back on the road, it was an hour-long drive to the Winnemucca Inn and Casino. After guests were given time to freshen up, everyone gathered in Sue and Marc Dodson's suite for appetizers and drinks. As expected, everyone brought their favorite Ken-

(Continued on Page 4)

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.

Summer Fun

High Temps in the High Desert

The Sierra Nevada Section has driven straight into summer, and our calendar is filled to the brim with exciting events, dinners, and parties. Before we look at this upcoming month's activities, let's take a peek at what we just buttoned up in May.

Early last month, Sue and Marc Dodson hosted the club out in Winnemucca for a lively Kentucky Derby Party. The overnight drive started with lunch in Lovelock, and concluded with an early-morning breakfast at a roadside diner. For dinner, the club was shuttled VIP-style to The Martin Hotel, which is well known for its traditional Basque food. Thank you to Sue and Marc for hosting us in your suite and coordinating the food and fun. It certainly was the most exciting two minutes in sports that I've ever seen.

Two weeks ago, Vencil and I hosted the club at the Nevada Museum of Art for a private tour of its temporary ex-

hibit, *The Ghost Army*. It was so interesting to learn about the American's tactical deception unit and their missions in World War II. Lunch at the cafe after the tour was fabulous, and we all talked about our favorite parts of the impressive exhibit. I had no idea we had so many history buffs in our club.

Next week, Christy and Marcus Dodson are hosting a First Tuesday Dinner at Wild River Grille in Downtown Reno. The weather is perfect for this venue right now, as we can all enjoy an elegant meal on the restaurant's outdoor riverside patio. Spots are still available, so be sure to reach out to Marcus if you'd like to reserve a spot at a table.

If you have an idea for an event, please reach out to one of the board members so that we can help you get started.

Gail Wells
President



First Tuesday Dinner
June 6th



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at
wild river
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MARCUS.C.DODSON@GMAIL.COM

LAST CALL!

*June 6th
5:00 p.m.*



CLUB MEMBERS GATHERED AT MERCEDES-BENZ OF RENO BEFORE STARTING THEIR TREK TO WINNEMUCCA.

Kentucky Derby

(Continued from Page 1)

tucky Derby hats, which ran the gamut from cowboy hats to lobster-shaped hats.

Club members were encouraged to bring a dish to share, and the selections

were fantastic. Appetizers included deviled eggs, shrimp cocktail, hummus, chips and dip, mixed nuts, and a spectacular homemade baklava. Mint juleps, wine, and water were available

for everyone to enjoy.

Guests were able to watch the Kentucky Derby on the large television in the Dodsons' hotel suite. The group

(Continued on Page 5)

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THE CLUB HAD ITS OWN PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT THE MARTIN FOR A NIGHT OF BASQUE FOOD.

Kentucky Derby

(Continued from Page 4)

mingled and enjoyed each other's company while pre-race sports commentaries played in the background. Once the race began, it was an exciting two minutes for everyone in the suite. It was an epic finish between the champion horses, and Mage was the winner of this year's Kentucky Derby. The final results included Two Phil's in second place, Angel of Empire in third place, Disarm in fourth place, and Hit Show in fifth place.

Mage is characterized as a playful foal and comes from a line of champion-bred horses. "I'm so thankful for the opportunity to ride the horse," said Mage's Jockey, Javier




Castellano. "The whole team gave me the opportunity to ride in the biggest race in the world. I had a lot of confidence in myself that this year would be the year. This horse was unbelievable today."

Similarly to last year's Kentucky Derby Party, Marc Dodson had guests pull random contenders from an appropriately themed hat, and this year's winner was Christy Dodson. She took home the grand prize, which was a Ne-

vada-made bottle of whiskey. Surely she'll be thanking Mage when she's pouring a dram of her prized whiskey.

After the greatest two minutes in sports were over, club members enjoyed a short drive to The Martin Hotel in Winnemucca. Members got a VIP ride in the casino's shuttle bus. Since 1898, The Martin Hotel has been serving traditional Basque food. Much the same as Reno and Gardnerville's Basque dining rooms, The Martin Hotel serves all of its dinners in a traditional family style, which includes homemade soup, salad, beans, bread, French fries, and bread pudding. For this evening's dinner, the Sierra Nevada Section was given a private dining room and its own dedicated server.

On Sunday, club members joined up at The Griddle in Winnemucca for a hearty breakfast before the relaxing drive back to Reno. Much the same as last year, this was one of the club's favorite events of the year, and everyone was already talking about next year's Kentucky Derby Party.

The next Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America event is the Annual Summer Backyard Luau, hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901. 

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THE NEW EQS SUV NOW HAS AN ACCELERATION INCREASE OFFER.

Electric Upgrade

Mercedes-Benz Offers Acceleration Increase for EQE & EQS

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Mercedes-Benz has released an exciting new option for owners of its all-electric EQE sedan and EQS SUV. Acceleration Increase is now offered to eligible models of these electric cars, allowing users to further enhance and customize their Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Currently, the optional upgrade

is available exclusively to Mercedes-Benz EQE 350 4MATIC and EQS 450 4MATIC Sedans and SUVs in the United States and Canada.

Available as a one-time purchase for the life of the vehicle or flexible monthly and yearly options, the Acceleration Increase On-Demand upgrade raises the vehicle's output by up to 80 hp and improves acceleration from 0 to

60 mph by as much as one whole second.

For eligible EQE models, the Acceleration Increase boosts the vehicle's output from 288 hp to 348 hp and delivers up to one-second quicker acceleration from 0 to 60 mph. The EQS models gain an additional 80 hp, increasing all the way to 435 hp, enabling the car to reach 60 mph in as little as 4.5 seconds. Impressively, this upgrade does not impact the vehicle's electric range.

Interested customers can find the upgrade available in the Mercedes me connect app via the store link. The upgrade can be downloaded directly from the app, eliminating the need to visit a dealership. Pricing ranges from \$60/month to \$600/year for the EQE eligible models, and \$90/month or \$900/year for the EQS eligible models. There's also an option to pay a one-time fee of \$1,950 for the EQE or \$2,950 for the EQS.



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Mercedes Club

Luau Party

July 15th

6:00 pm



Marcus & Christy's Backyard
1840 Wendy Way, Reno

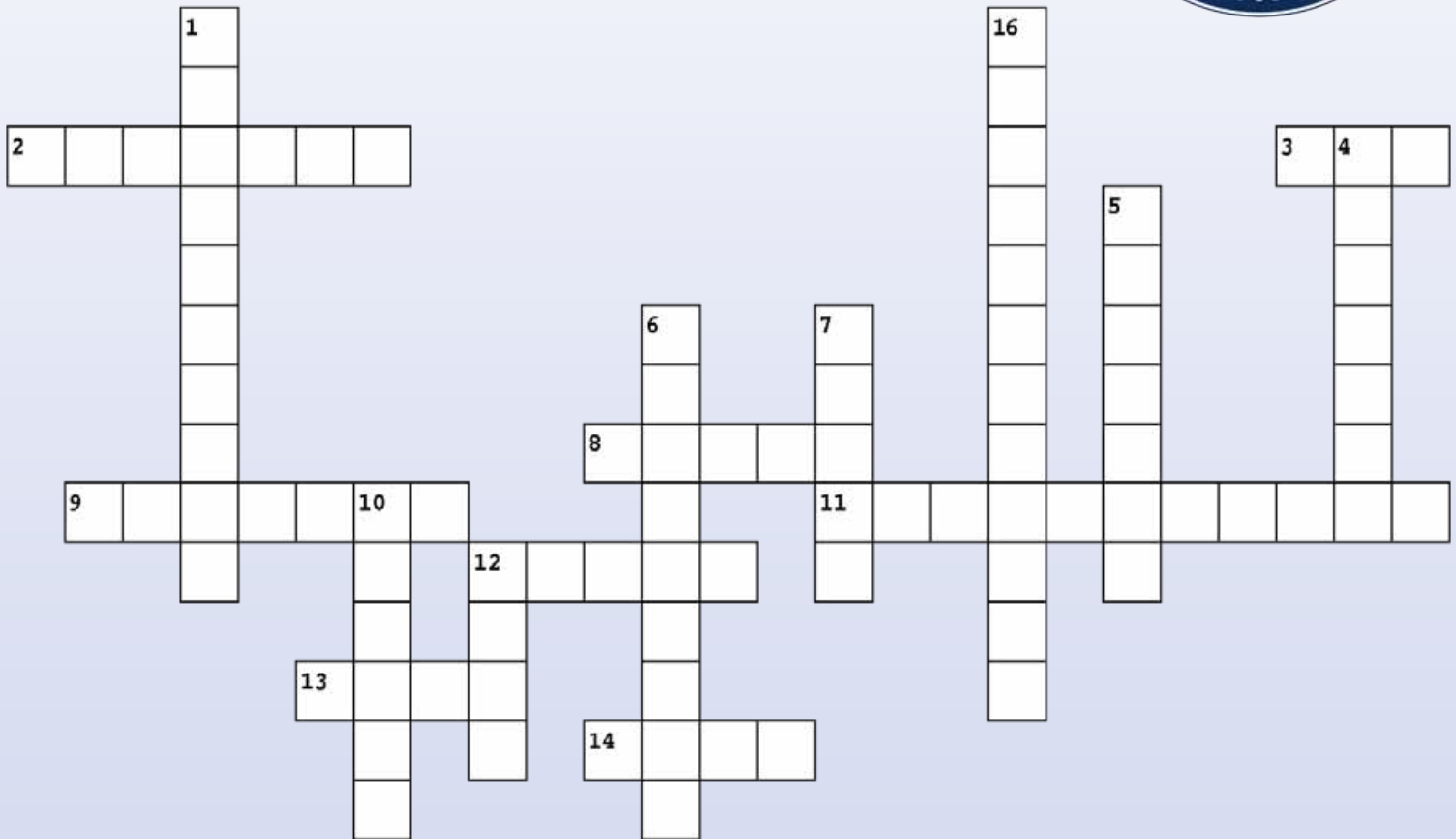
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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. The car that Tiger Woods was in when he crashed
- 3. A car that has the letters in its symbol
- 8. A car that has an "L" with a circle surrounding it
- 9. The most expensive car
- 11. A fast sports car that starts with "Lam"
- 12. The car that has an "A" with a circle around it
- 13. A car that starts with "F" and has the whole car name as its symbol
- 14. A car that can go off roads

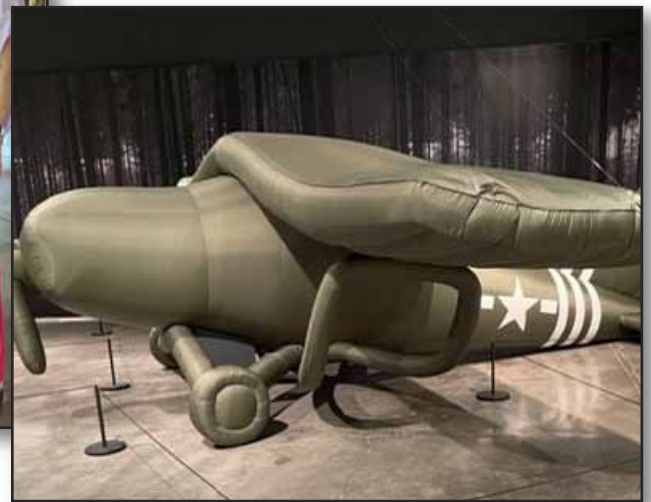
DOWN

- 1. The fastest car in the world
- 4. A car that starts with "Mc"
- 5. A car that has a horse in its symbol and starts with "F"
- 6. It starts with "C" and its symbol has a shape similar to a cross
- 7. A car that Elon Musk made
- 10. The cars statement is "Let's Go Places"
- 12. The car that has four circles
- 16. Obviously the best car brand out there

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



DURING WWII, THE GHOST ARMY USED VISUAL, SONIC, & RADIO DECEPTION TECHNIQUES TO FOOL THE GERMANS.



Ghost Army

Club Receives Private Tour of Special WWII Exhibit at Nevada Museum of Art

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In late May, 24 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America met in Downtown Reno for a private tour of a new exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art. *Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II* is a temporary exhibit that tells the unique story of 82 officers and 1,023 men who deceived, sketched, and painted across Europe to manipulate Hitler’s armies during World War II. Gail and Vencil Wells hosted this fun event, which included lunch in the museum’s cafe.

The 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, known as the Ghost Army, was the first mobile, multimedia, tactical deception unit in United States Army history. Under the command of Colonel Harry L. Reeder, this top-secret unit was capable of simulating two whole divisions, equating to 30,000 troops, which helped to deceive and confuse German

forces during the final year of World War II.

The unit was comprised of artists, engineers, and soldiers who used visual, sonic, and radio deception techniques to fool the Germans. They used inflatable tanks and vehicles, created fake radio traffic and sound effects, and even fabricated phony Army personnel. Armed with nothing heavier than .50-caliber machine guns, the Ghost Army took part in 22 large-scale deception missions in Europe, ranging from Normandy to the Rhine River.

“The exhibition reveals an important aspect of the history of World War II, and showcases the creativity, ingenuity, and bravery of these soldiers who will inspire museum guests of all ages,” said Nevada Museum of Art CEO, David B. Walker.

The exhibit is produced by The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, and displays archival photogra-

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Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across	Down
2. Genesis	1. Koenigsegg
3. BMW	4. McLaren
8. Lexus	5. Ferrari
9. Bugatti	6. Chevrolet
11. Lamborghini	7. Tesla
12. Acura	10. Toyota
13. Ford	12. Audi
14. Jeep	16. Mercedes Benz



CLUB MEMBERS BROKE INTO TWO PRIVATE TOURS, EACH WITH ITS OWN DOCENT.

THE GHOST ARMY USED INFLATABLE TANKS & VEHICLES AS PART OF THEIR DECEPTION.



Ghost Army

(Continued from Page 12)

phy, historical artifacts, uniforms, sketches, and life-sized recreations of inflatable military equipment used by the Ghost Army. Curated and donated to The World War II Museum by the Ghost Army Legacy Project, the exhibit made its debut in New Orleans in March 2020 and has been on a national tour to share the incredible story of the Ghost Army.

“*Ghost Army* explores the bravery, heroics, and tactical brilliance of a first-of-its-kind military unit,” said Erin Clancey, Associate Vice President of Collection and Exhibits



at The National World War II Museum. “Although their efforts were classified for over 50 years, the deceptive and groundbreaking strategies used on the battlefield saved lives and played a significant role in Allied victory.”

After the private tour, club members enjoyed lunch at the museum’s cafe. The cafe has delightful offerings from Chef Colin Smith of Roundabout, including snacks and sandwiches, as well as coffee and cocktails. Standout choices included the Italian sub sandwich, turkey cranberry sandwich, and sweet potato wrap. Salad and soup options were available, too, as well as pastries and cookies. Coffees, cappucci-

nos, and lattes were served, which helped the group perk up after the morning tour, and others enjoyed glasses of wine, assorted beers, and other spirited drinks.

If you’re interested in hosting an event, please reach out to Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701 for help and to reserve your date. 🚗



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The Big Dig

NFL Teams Up with Mercedes for Non-Profit in Atlanta

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



Recently, more than 140 Mercedes-Benz employees and former Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Matt Ryan built an outdoor learning classroom for the students and teachers at Dunbar Elementary School in Atlanta. Coordinated in conjunction with Mercedes-Benz's National Volunteer Week in mid-April, the project was facilitated by Out Teach, a national non-profit designed to help schools and elementary school teachers reimagine and re-engineer teaching and learning into something more effective and equitable for all students.

Named The Big Dig, Mercedes employees, school faculty, and Out Teach staff turned Dunbar Elementary's schoolyard into a real-world lab, complete with

an earth science station, rainwater harvesters, compost bins, vegetable and flower beds, animal habitats, and more.


"We are so excited to bring science to life outdoors at Dunbar Elementary School, and thankful to Mercedes-Benz USA and the Atlanta Public Schools for making it happen," said Jeanne McCarty, CEO of Out Teach. "This is an investment that will pay dividends for Dunbar students and teachers, as well as for future employers of science-literate young people."

The project was kicked off with a lively student pep rally in celebration of the new outdoor learning classroom and concluded with a closing ceremony and ribbon cutting. National Volunteer Week is part of Mercedes' Driving Your Future



NFL'S MATT RYAN AT DUNBAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

program, which is the company's social responsibility initiative. The corporate program aims to empower the next generation by supporting educational programs, career readiness, and child safety.

"Giving back to our youth through these types of events is always an incredible opportunity and brings back core memories of my own time as a student learning outside the classroom," said Ryan. "Atlanta has become my family's home, and we want to make it the best possible city for the future generation, which my own kids are a part of." 

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ITEMS of INTEREST

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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 ½ off admission into the facility, and the discount applies 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

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

October 3, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined

October 28, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Halloween Party, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, The Dodsons' Home, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901

November 7, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined

HAWAIIAN LUAU

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IN CLOSING

A Rose by Any Other Name

These Boat Owners Went Above & Beyond When Naming Their Craft

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.)

It's spring, and it's a time when a young man's fancy turns to none other than boating. More pleasure craft are sold in the spring than any other time of the year. So, you now have a new boat, but before the big launch, what are you going to name it? Well, we're here to help.

