

The SILVER STAR



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



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OUTDOOR LUAU

JULY 15, 2023

(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



Wild River Grille

Club Enjoys Riverside Dinner in Downtown Reno

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In early June, 24 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America met in downtown Reno for a First Tuesday Dinner, with some members traveling from as far away as Incline and Gardnerville. Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted the club at Wild River Grille, which is well known for its fantastic location on the banks of the Truckee River. Located in the Reno RiverWalk District, Wild River Grille is nestled in the historic Riverside Artist Lofts Building. A longstanding down-

town structure, the Riverside Artist Lofts Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is beloved in Reno as an idyllic space for group gatherings.

The restaurant imbues a nature-inspired ambience, which includes a full bar and expansive riverside patio. During the summer months, guests can often enjoy live music outside, and pets are welcome on the patio at this dog-friendly restaurant. The menu always includes locally sourced and seasonal ingredients, which are also used in the

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Stars & Stripes

Celebrating America's Freedom & Beauty

Summer is in full swing, and the Sierra Nevada Section is as busy as ever. From monthly dinners to highly anticipated parties, our club continues to be one of the most exciting social groups in the area. July, as usual, is one of our most lively months of the year, and June wasn't too shabby either. Let's reminisce about what the Sierra Nevada Section was up to last month.

In early June, Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted several of the club's members at Wild River Grille in downtown Reno. The event was precisely in the middle of one of Reno's rainiest weeks to date, but the restaurant was incredibly accommodating to the large group. Let's hope that we can go back to this riverside spot another time and enjoy the outside patio.

This week, Lynn and Terry Nielsen are hosting the club at Gambi's in the Somerset neighborhood of Reno on July 5. We all enjoyed this pirate them-

ed Italian restaurant last year, and this summer's visit will surely be just as enjoyable. Vencil and I are looking forward to seeing the amazing decor at this exciting restaurant again, as well as our scallywag friends. If you'd like to join the group on this evening, be sure to reach out to Lynn Nielsen at (775) 747-9924.

On July 15, Christy and Marcus Dodson are hosting their highly anticipated Summer Backyard Luau at the their home in Reno. Wear your favorite tropical-inspired outfits and bring your appetites, as this party always has some of the best food of the year. If you'd like to attend, please reach out to Christy Dodson at (775) 771-7777.

If you have an idea for a dinner or a drive, please reach out to me at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

Gail Wells
President



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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.



Mercedes Club

Luau Party

July 15th

6:00 pm



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Wild River Grille

(Continued from Page 1)

restaurant's finely crafted cocktails. Due to the inclement, ultra-windy weather on this particular night, the restaurant staff moved the group indoors at the last minute. The club was

given its own private dining room, as well as a dedicated wait staff.

For this evening's event, Wild River Grille created a special menu for the group and even created a Mercedes-

branded printout. Dinner started with a choice of Caesar salad or Wild River salad, which consisted of spring mix, apple, dried cranberry, spiced pecan,

(Continued on Page 5)

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Wild River Grille

(Continued from Page 4)

marinated red onion, gorgonzola, and a creamy balsamic dressing.

Guests were able to choose from three entrees, including: house meatloaf, which included portabella mushrooms, fresh ground beef, Italian sausage, mushroom ragout gravy, red potato mash, and seasonal squash medley; plum chipotle salmon, which included lightly

house-smoked fresh salmon, plum chipotle sauce, arugula and spinach couscous, and season squash medley; or glazed chicken breast, which included free-range Petaluma chicken breast, maple dijon glaze, basmati rice, and seasonal squash medley.

The meal concluded with a New York-style cheesecake, and several

guests enjoyed coffee with their sweet treat. Throughout dinner, Mercedes club members enjoyed wine and cocktails, which were crafted at the beautiful Wild River Grille bar, and the group was able to pay via separate checks.

The next First Wednesday Dinner is July 5 at Gambi's in the Somerset neighborhood of Reno. If you need more information about this event or would like to RSVP, please reach out to Lynn Nielsen at nielsen-reno@live.com or (775) 747-9924. Dinners happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested.

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





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AN AMG SPEEDSHIFT TRANSMISSION FEATURES A WET START-OFF CLUTCH ON THIS EXCLUSIVELY REAR-WHEEL DRIVE VERSION OF THE SL.

Mercedes-AMG SL 43

New Entry to SL Model Range with Innovative Engine Technology

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



Coming to dealerships this summer is the racing-inspired Mercedes®-AMG SL 43. Equipped with an AMG-enhanced 2.0-liter turbocharged M139 engine that features an electric exhaust gas turbocharger, the open-top two-seater roadster is an impressive addition to the SL lineup. Mercedes has been continuously developing

and enhancing the SL for 70 years, and the new SL 43 is a testament to the innovation that drives the Mercedes-AMG engineering team to continued greatness. Derived directly from the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula 1™ racecars, the new roadster uses technology that has been successfully powering the elite F1 team. An electric motor around 1.6" is integrated directly on the turboch-

arger shaft between the turbine wheel on the exhaust side and the compressor wheel on the intake side. This new motor configuration solves the issue of a responsive turbocharger yielding a lower output and a large turbocharger sacrificing its responsiveness.

“The electric exhaust gas turbocharger is a fascinating example of the extensive transfer between Formula 1 technology and the development of production vehicles,” said Jochen Hermann, chief technical officer, Mercedes-AMG GmbH. “In implementing this in conjunction with our powerful M139 four-cylinder, we were also able to draw on the enormous wealth of experience of our colleagues at Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains. The technology increases agility and thus driving fun, while at the same time improving the efficiency of the drive system. We are pursuing ambitious goals with a view to our electrified fu-

(Continued on Page 10)



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THE SL 43 HAS A TURBOCHARGER DERIVED DIRECTLY FROM FORMULA 1.



Mercedes-AMG SL 43

(Continued from Page 8)

ture. Innovative components such as the electric exhaust gas turbocharger help us to achieve this.”

As a result of this turbocharger technology, the Mercedes-AMG SL 43 has an output of 375 horsepower and a maximum torque of 354 pound-feet. The electrification of the turbocharger increases agility and optimizes acceleration. When the driver takes their foot off the accelerator or applies the brake,

the car maintains boost pressure at all times to ensure a continuously direct response.

In this rear-wheel drive model, the M139 engine is combined with the AMG SPEEDSHIFT® Multi-Clutch 9G transmission, in which a wet start-off clutch replaces the torque converter. This combination reduces weight and optimizes the response to accelerator pedal input, which all leads to the AMG

SL 43 being able to accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 4.8 seconds and have a top speed of 170 mph.

The current SL model range uses a vehicle architecture that allows a 2+2 seating configuration. If the extra seating is not needed, a removable wind deflector behind the rear seats can protect the front-seat occupants from wind. The chassis of the SL is made of light-

(Continued on Page 12)

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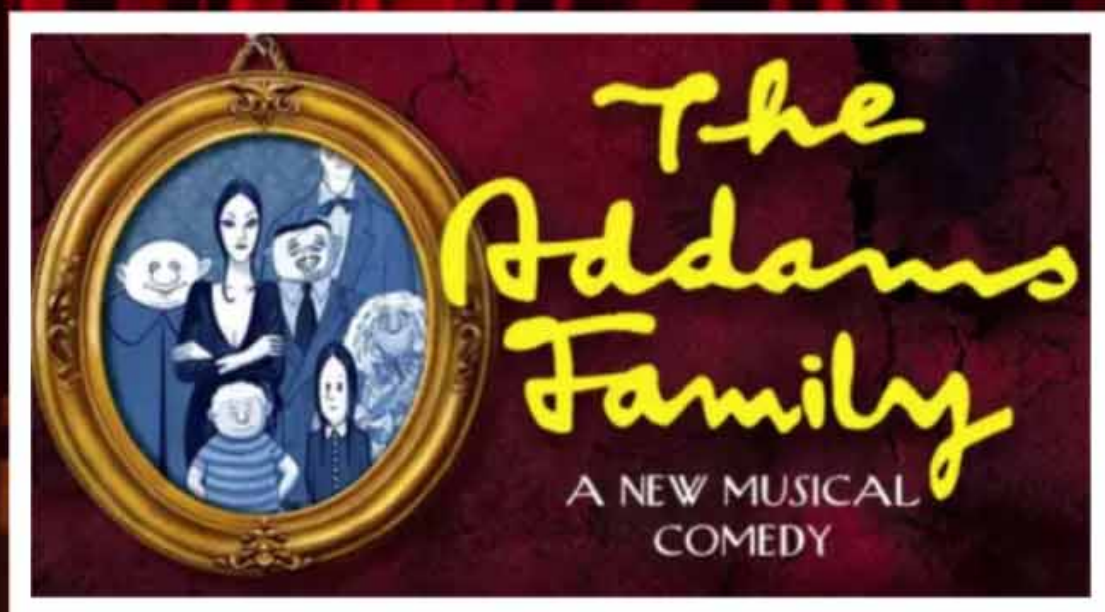
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AMG SL 43

(Continued from Page 10)

weight aluminum composite, and an aluminum space frame with a self-supporting structure. This design allows the car to have sporty body proportions without sacrificing interior comfort. The windshield frame is made of a mix of aluminum, magnesium, fiber composites, and steel, and it serves as roll-over protection, in addition to the roll-bar system behind the rear seats. The car's low center of gravity and

lightweight construction work together to ensure optimal and safe handling.

On the outside, the design of the AMG SL 43 has a unique front fascia, rear apron, and rounded double tailpipe trim accents, which differentiate it from the AMG SL 55 and AMG SL 63. The SL's defining features, includ-

ing the long wheelbase, short overhands, and long hood are all incorporated into this new model. These classic SL proportions give the AMG SL 43 roadster a powerful, aesthetic appearance.

Mercedes-AMG engineers have de-
(Continued on Page 13)

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THE NEW AMG SL MODEL IS AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY WITH REAR-WHEEL DRIVE.




Mercedes-AMG SL 43

(Continued from Page 12)

signed active aerodynamics to increase the efficiency of the SL 43 by reducing air resistance. A retractable rear spoiler also serves as an aerodynamic component, which assumes five different angle settings to optimize handling stability or reduce drag. A newly developed chassis features AMG standard suspension or the new AMG RIDE CONTROL suspen-

sion, which has powerful aluminum shock absorbers and lightweight coil springs.

If you've been waiting for a Formula 1-inspired sports car, then your wait is over. We can expect the Mercedes-AMG SL 43 to hit dealership floors this summer, with a price tag of just over \$111,000. 



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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle

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Manufacturer...

ACROSS

- 1. Gladiator
- 4. MCL36
- 6. R8
- 8. G40
- 11. Enzo
- 13. Giulia
- 15. LC 500
- 16. GT
- 18. GTR
- 19. Agera RS
- 20. Beetle
- 21. Morris
- 22. Venom

DOWN

- 2. Taycan
- 3. M3
- 5. WRX
- 7. Panda
- 9. Supra
- 10. W13
- 12. Evija
- 14. AMR22
- 17. Countache
- 21. Boss 302

*Puzzle answers can be
found on the following page.*



SOD Peak 8x6

Mercedes-Inspired Luxury Motorhome

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

In 2013, Mercedes®-Benz introduced its heavy-duty truck, the Arocs, which was aimed at the construction sector. With several available bodies, including dump trucks, concrete mixers, and tractors, the robust vehicle has been a top choice of construction professionals for a variety of jobsite challenges.

The Arocs has been a source of inspiration for one German RV company, Stone Offroad Design, which is known throughout Europe as an outfitting company that specializes in up-fitting vehicles with off-road equipment that marries capability with class. Stone Offroad Design has recently introduced its SOD Peak 8x6 motorhome, a luxury recreational vehicle that can take its owners seemingly anywhere.

A large double bed in the rear of the living area and two foldable single beds, which can be configured into fold-out bunk beds, make this one of the most opulent recreational motorhomes we've encountered. The 24.6' SOD Peak 8x6 has everything a couple or small-sized family could need on the road. It includes a shared kitchenette and dining area with an ample amount of cabinets. The generously sized bathroom is designed with beautiful white marble counters and accents. There's an option to add an additional television and color-changing starry skylights inside the cab.

The interior of the cab features perforated leather seats with honeycomb quilting for the driver and front passenger. The dashboard, side panels, headliner, and handles are wrapped in luxurious leather. The driver's cab and attachments, as well as the decorative grille, are clad in an elegant graphite metallic gray. The wheels and chassis are painted a



deep black, creating a striking color scheme. An exterior LED light bar stands out in the front, and is complemented by dimmable ambient lights. A rescue winch and winding device are standard, which is a great option for anyone who goes a little too far off the beaten path.

In addition to its beautiful exterior and interior, the technology behind the SOD RV includes a 1.6-kW solar system and a 150-amp generator that ensures the motorhome is self-sufficient. A 264-gallon freshwater tank and a 4.22-gallon hot

(Continued on Page 16)

Crossword Puzzle Answers

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Across | 18. Nissan | 5. Subaru |
| 1. Jeep | 19. Koenigsegg | 7. Fiat |
| 4. McLaren | 20. Volkswagen | 9. Toyota |
| 6. Audi | 21. Mini | 10. Mercedes |
| 8. Ginetta | 22. Hennessy | 12. Lotus |
| 11. Ferrari | | 14. Aston Martin |
| 13. Alfa Romeo | Down | 17. Lamborghini |
| 15. Lexus | 2. Porsche | 21. Mustang |
| 16. Ford | 3. BMW | |



LEFT: ALL FOUR FRONT WHEELS HELP TURN THIS BEAST OF A VEHICLE.
BELOW: THE LUXURIOUS COCKPIT IN THE SOD PEAK.




SOD Peak

(Continued from Page 15)

water boiler, which uses waste heat from the engine, provide ultra comfort for the motorhome's residents. The SOD Peak 8x6 has EW3 windows with blackout and insect screens, a roof hatch KCT tempered glass with blackout and insect screen, and storage compartment flaps and an entrance door with insect screens. It's safe to say that insects are not welcome inside the luxury motorhome.

The engine underneath this beast of an RV has a diesel mill with six cylinders and an output of 530 horsepower. A cyclone air pre-filter, fuel pre-filter, and additional transmission and steering oil coolers add to the SOD Peak's durability. For those that need to carry ATVs or require a space for grilling and

lounging, a retractable mezzanine doubles as a carrier platform.

Interested in the Mercedes-inspired SOD Peak 8x6? Be prepared to shell out \$1.857 million for the ultra-luxurious motorhome. If glamorous camping is your dream vacation, the SOD Peak 8x6 will make your wish come true. 

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ITEMS of INTEREST

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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.

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 15, 2023: V&T Railroad Ride, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

October 21, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Oktoberfest, Christy & Marcus Dodson's home, 1840 Wendy Way, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901

December 14, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA Christmas Party, The Club at ArrowCreek, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901

Video of the Month

This is Why You Don't Tailgate...

Few people enjoy looking in their rearview mirror to see a car mere feet from their bumper. It's usually a tactic to try getting you to go faster or move over. It's not only annoying but also dangerous, as clearly illustrated in this video. In this situation, we have a freeway with fairly heavy traffic, but still enough room for the crappy little car behind this Jeep Wrangler to go around. Instead, the little compact heap decides riding the Wrangler's rear bumper is just the thing to do and doesn't see what's coming down the road. To see what happens to the crappy little car that is tailgating, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ewu2P8UhQO8&t=15s>



IN CLOSING

Food Trucks

They Are All the Rage, & Mercedes Has Been There Along the Way

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.)

Food Trucks. Getting your dinner from a tiny, greasy kitchen on wheels could be fun. I'm not a big fan, but the younger generation certainly seems to like them. Check out how Mercedes® vehicles have been used as food trucks, here at home and around the world.

