

The SILVER STAR



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



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PICNIC & SHOW
AUGUST 18, 2023
(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



CLUB MEMBERS ENJOYED ALL SORTS OF LIBATIONS INCLUDING A SPECIAL BUBBLING MAI TAI.

Aloha!

Tropical Luau for Annual Summer Backyard Party

by Gail Wells, Sierra Nevada Section Club President

Every July, members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America look forward to one event: the Annual Summer Backyard Party. Held every July in the beautiful backyard of Christy and Marcus Dodson's Reno home, the well-attended party is always off the charts. For the last few years, the theme has been Christmas in July, but this year's theme went in a different direction. Guests were invited to wear their finest tropical flair for an authentic Hawaiian luau.

In total, 65 people attended, making it the largest Sierra Nevada Summer Backyard Party to date. Much like other club events, members traveled from near and far to join in on the fun. On this evening, the party lured guests from as far away as Southern California, the Bay Area, and Dallas. Steve Ross, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Regional Director, drove from San Diego to attend the party, and everyone was happy to see his friendly face again.

The Dodsons' expansive backyard was adorned to the max with tropical-

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Ohana Means Family *Summertime in the Sierra Nevada*

Recently, at Christy and Marcus Dodsons' Hawaiian Backyard Party, I was reminded how much I truly value all of the friendships I've made within this club of ours. You have all come to be ohana, or family, to me, and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to see so many friends at our wonderful club events.

July was a smashing success for the club, starting with our First Tuesday Dinner at Gambi's. Lynn and Terry Nielsen hosted the club at this pirate-themed Italian restaurant in Somerset, and we were all excited to go back to this spot again. Then, in mid-July, Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted the club at their beautiful home in Reno for a Hawaiian luau. It was so much fun to see everyone in their finest tropical gear, and the food and decorations were fantastic. Thank you to both couples for hosting the club at these two events in July.

This month has two wonderful events on the calendar. Tonight, August 1, we are meeting at Red's Old 395 Grill

in Carson City for a First Tuesday Dinner. Red's has some of the best wings, salads, steaks, and burgers in the Carson Valley, so Vencil and I are excited to host the club at this restaurant again. Last year, a couple hungry club members shared the famous Red's Colossal Que for Two, which includes BBQ ribs, smoked chicken, sausage, cornbread, coleslaw, and beans.

Then, on August 18, we are heading to Bartley Ranch Regional Park in Reno for the Annual Summer Picnic and Play, hosted by Lavern and Carlos Lucovich. The Sierra School of Performing Arts is putting on the play *The Addams Family*, and we will enjoy a picnic dinner together beforehand at the pavilion.

If you'd like to host an event, reach out to me at blackswan342@gmail.com and I can help you get started with planning a fun club event.

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.

Picnic & *a Show*

AT BARTLEY RANCH
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
LIVE PERFORMANCE OF



◇ PICNIC DINNER 6:00 P.M. AT THE PAVILION
(BYOB & A DISH TO SHARE)

◇ SHOW STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

◇ \$30 PER PERSON FOR THE SHOW

MUST BE PRE-PAID BY AUGUST 8TH

Check made out to SNMBCA • Mail to LaVern Lucovich,
6 Gay Circle, Carson City, NV 89703

FOR MORE INFO, CALL LAVERN AT (775) 882-4697 OR EMAIL LIPINSKI3541@GMAIL.COM

CLUB MEMBERS GATHERED FOR AN EVENING UNDER THE PALM TREES THAT INCLUDED A WHOLE ROASTED PIG.



Aloha!

(Continued from Page 1)

inspired trinkets and decorations, including vintage Hawaiian travel posters. As guests arrived, they were greeted by a giant ALOHA in the front yard, then leis were hung around their

necks upon entering the party. Two surfboards were situated against trees in the backyard, and large tiki heads watched on as the party went late into the night.

A large smoked pig was on display, and was later enjoyed as part of the evening's catered main course. As the

(Continued on Page 5)

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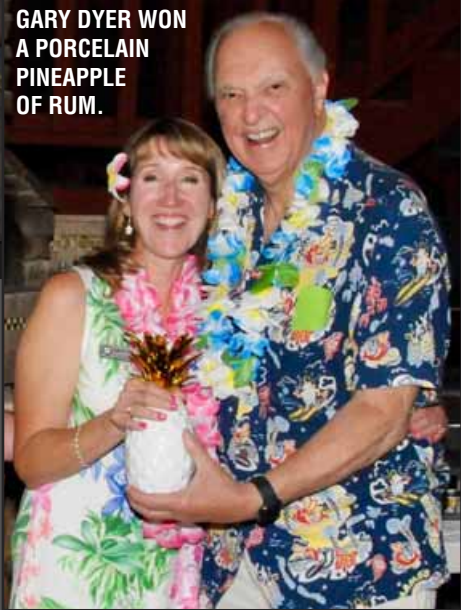
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GARY DYER WON A PORCELAIN PINEAPPLE OF RUM.



Aloha!

(Continued from Page 4)

sun went down, tiki torches lit up the backyard and gave off a delightfully tropic atmosphere. Hawaiian music lilted over the crowd, perfecting to the laid-back vibe of the party, and a forest of lit-up palm trees added to the nighttime ambience. Gary Dyer won this year's raffle prize, which was a porcelain pineapple-shaped bottle of rum.

Prior to the main course, appetizers circulated throughout the party guests, including shrimp kabobs with a Hawai-

ian sauce, sliders with pineapple, and taro chips. The main offering included Kahlua pork tacos with a creamy tomatillo sauce and a tangy Hawaiian pineapple coleslaw. Dessert for the evening was a pineapple upside-down cake, prepared by Board Member Vencil Wells.

A grass-roofed tiki bar was centrally located, allowing guests to refuel with mai tais, beer, wine, soda, and water. Members who enjoyed mai tais were delighted to find their concoctions bubbling, thanks to strategically placed dry ice. A dedicated bartender was surely

kept busy by the energetic crowd. Guests were able to eat and drink amidst four high-top tables, and an active volcano with real lava and steam erupted every few minutes.

The next club event will be the Annual Picnic and Play at Bartley Ranch Regional Park in Reno on August 18, hosted by LaVern and Carlos Lucovich. The Sierra School of Performing Arts will be performing *The Addams Family*. RSVP to this event by contacting LaVern Lucovich at lipinski3541@gmail.com or (775) 882-4697. Events 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. 🚗





First Tuesday Dinner

SEPTEMBER
5th 5:30 p.m.



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THE CLE FEATURES A LOW-SLUNG HOOD & FLAT LED HEADLIGHTS, WHICH DELIVER AN ELEGANT & ATHLETIC APPEARANCE.

CLE Coupe

New Luxury Coupe Brings Together the Best of Both Worlds

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Amidst the revamps, throwbacks, and concept cars, it's been quite some time since Mercedes-Benz has introduced a truly new, never-before-seen model.

Recently, however, the German automaker has unveiled its 2024 CLE coupe, which is on track to replace the C-Class coupe and E-Class coupe. This luxury midsize offering resembles the outgoing E-Class coupe, at 191" long,

73.2" wide, and 56.2" tall. With this new car, Mercedes is taking a stab at cutting down the number of vehicles in its lineup, effectively streamlining its manufacturing process.

Pointed headlights and a pronounced grill resemble the more affordable CLA-Class, and the connected rear tail-light bar touches on the Mercedes EQ lineup's design. A forward-leaning front section, known as a shark nose, includes a low-slung hood and flat LED headlights, which deliver an elegant and athletic appearance. On the back of the car, muscular lines and flowing transitions give the CLE coupe a new, distinctive shape.

Customers in America have two different styles of the CLE coupe to choose from. The CLE 300 4Matic comes with a 2.0-liter turbocharged inline-four that

(Continued on Page 10)



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THE NEW CLE WILL HAVE A PORTRAIT-ORIENTED 11.9" CENTRAL TOUCHSCREEN WITH AN MBUX INFOTAINMENT SYSTEM



CLE Coupe

(Continued from Page 8)

outputs 255 horsepower and 295 pound-feet of torque. The CLE 450 4Matic comes with a 3.0-liter turbocharged inline-six that provides 375 horsepower and 369 pound-feet of torque. Both options get 48-volt hybrid

assistance thanks to an integrated starter generator nestled between the motor and the nine-speed automatic gearbox. This adds an extra 23 horsepower and 148 pound-feet of torque at low engine speeds. In both trims, all-

wheel-drive comes standard, as well as an electronically limited top speed of 130 mph.

Those that are familiar with the E-Class sedan will notice a difference in

(Continued on Page 11)

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THE CLE COUPE SITS .6" LOWER THAN THE E-CLASS SEDAN & IS 1" LONGER THAN THE C-CLASS.

CLE Coupe

(Continued from Page 10)

performance when stepping into the CLE coupe. The car sits 0.6" lower and there's an available sport suspension option for the CLE 450 4Matic version that facilitates a sportier drive. The CLE's wheelbase of 112.8" sits about 1"

longer than the C-Class and 1/8" less than the E-Class.

On the inside, the CLE coupe has a cockpit that is reminiscent of the SL roadster. This includes a sporty steering wheel, a 12.3" digital gauge cluster,

and a portrait-oriented 11.9" central touchscreen with an MBUX infotainment system. Mercedes' latest generation of its innovative MBUX system uses 5G data transmission for instant

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The new CLE




THE NEW CLE COUPE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY 2024.

CLE Coupe

(Continued from Page 11)

updates and downloads. Two speakers implanted into each front seat immerse the interior with Burmester® 3D surround sound with Dolby Atmos®, as well as a 64-color ambient lighting system. The front seats, designed specifically for the CLE, feature heat, ventilation, and a four-way lumbar support standard.

Interested parties have to wait until next year, as the roll-out date to be early 2024. Also, if a convertible is more your style, an open-top cabriolet option will follow the CLE coupe not long after its release. While a price hasn't been revealed yet, it can be expected to fall between the base prices of the C-Class and E-Class, putting it around \$60,000. 



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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

2. Popular Swedish company
4. Named after the rock the Pilgrims' boats landed at
6. Known for being extremely expensive
7. One of multiple brands known for rally
14. Makes Civics
15. Known for *Back to the Future*
17. Known for *James Bond*
18. Exotic Italian car company
19. American Motors Company
20. Known for originally making rally then supercars
24. Known for their Benzes
25. Known for Beetles and Golfs
26. Famous for Gallardo
30. Makes cars that look like VW bugs but is a supercar company

DOWN

1. Known for Corvettes and Camaros
3. Known for making drifters
5. An almost forgotten company known for JDM cars
8. Used a lot in *Jurassic Park*
9. One of the worst cars this company made is the Pinto
10. Made the Miata
11. Made the legendary Firebird
12. Known for making the Continental
13. Made for racing then luxury
16. Used to be known as luxury but now is considered muscle
21. Made the Daytona
22. A German company that is very expensive in the United States
23. Made Willys for the war
27. Known for making muscle cars and cars ahead of their time
28. This company was made because of Ford being expensive in Australia
29. The Hudson Hornet



Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



Gambi's

Club Enjoys Dinner at Pirate-Themed Spot in Somerset

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In early July, 27 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America met at Gambi's in the Somerset neighborhood of Reno. This was the second time the club has dined at this upscale-casual Italian restaurant, which is uniquely decorated with pirate-themed furnishings and art. Sometimes, the owner of the restaurant can be spotted walking around the establishment with a parrot on his shoulder.

On this particular evening, guests traveled from as far away as Carson City and Sacramento, and everyone arrived hungry and ready to enjoy the night. Several members had recently returned to Reno, having escaped the harsh Sierra Nevada winter in favor of warmer climates. Everyone was glad to see familiar faces and catch up with each other.

Prior to sitting down for dinner, the group enjoyed 20 minutes of mingling in the adjacent restaurant bar. The owner of Gambi's is also the proprietor of Lido Bay Wine, a Northern California winery, and the restaurant had several tawdry-

named wines on the drink menu. These include Lido Bay Revelers Merlot, Bitch Tongue Pinot Noir, Mercenary Cabernet, Mutiny, Marauder, and Dead Man's Red.

Gambi's generously gave the group its own set of waiters and a dedicated bartender for the evening. This enhanced

(Continued on Page 15)

Crossword Puzzle Answers

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Across | 24. Mercedes | 10. Mazda |
| 2. Volvo | 25. VW | 11. Pontiac |
| 4. Plymouth | 26. Lamborghini | 12. Bentley |
| 6. Maserati | 30. Porsche | 13. Jaguar |
| 7. Subaru | | 16. Cadillac |
| 14. Honda | Down | 21. Dodge |
| 15. DeLorean | 1. Chevrolet | 22. BMW |
| 17. Aston | 3. Toyota | 23. Jeep |
| 18. Ferrari | 5. Datsun | 27. Buick |
| 19. AMC | 8. Range Rover | 28. Holden |
| 20. Audi | 9. Ford | 29. Mercury |



LEFT: THE GIRLS ENJOY A SEAT AT THE THRONE OF BONES. BELOW: CLUB MEMBERS READY FOR THEIR MEALS AT THE PIRATE-THEMED RESTAURANT.




Gambi's

(Continued from Page 14)

service allowed food to come out quickly, arriving at the table hot and ready to be enjoyed. The night's entrees included risotto balls, salads, ravioli, scampi, spaghetti, penne, tortellini, lasagna bolognese, ahi tuna tartare, steak, salmon, and much more.

Eventually it was time to abandon ship, and the merry club members bid farewell until the next gathering. The

next First Tuesday Dinner is tonight, August 1, at Red's Old 395 Grill in Carson City. If you need more information about this event, please reach out to Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701. First Tuesday Dinners happen monthly, and there are op-

portunities 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. 

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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?"

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\$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.

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 1-6, 2023: Hot August Nights, Reno, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956

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 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

November 7, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Chi, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

December 5, 2023: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined

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

MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Christy & Marcus Dodson's Home
Friday, July 28, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Directors present were: Gail Wells, President; Vencil Wells, Vice President; Christy Dodson, Secretary; Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor; LaVern Lucovich, Treasurer; and Patti Lamski, Director at Large.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Marcus Dodson confirmed there was a quorum of directors present.

MINUTES:

Patti Lamski made a motion to approve the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter. LaVern Lucovich 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 \$4,863.88 in its bank account as of June 30, 2023. Expenditures for the last quarter were \$2,491.33 and income was \$1,380.00. Marcus Dodson approved the Treasurer's Report. Christy Dodson seconded the motion.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Marcus Dodson read the Membership Report that was submitted by Marc Dodson, Membership Chair. As of July 2023, the club has 85 members. This is down three members from the previous quarter. Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the Membership Report and Gail Wells seconded it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 👉 Christy Dodson presented receipts for the Hawaiian Luau for approval.
- 👉 Christy Dodson went over the estimated costs of the upcoming Oktoberfest Party.
- 👉 There will be an election of officers at the next Board of Directors Quarterly meeting.

SECTION EVENTS:

- 👉 LaVern and Carlos Lucovich will host the Bartley Ranch Picnic and Play on August 18. The deadline to RSVP is August 8.
- 👉 Christy and Marcus Dodson will host the September First Tuesday Dinner on September 5 at Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse in Reno.
- 👉 Sue and Marc Dodson will host a V&T Railroad Ride on October 15 in Carson City.
- 👉 Christy and Marcus Dodson will host an Oktoberfest Party on October 21 at their home in Reno.
- 👉 Gail and Vencil Wells will host the November First Tuesday Dinner on November 7 at Chi in Reno.
- 👉 The Christmas Party will be held on December 14 at The Club at ArrowCreek in Reno.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 21, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Christy and Marcus Dodson's home.

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 6:20 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

IN CLOSING

Mercedes Toys

Forget Real Cars, These Tiny Toys Look Just Like the Real Thing!

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.)



We all like Mercedes®-Benz vehicles, but maybe we've been collecting the wrong thing. These little toys might be the way to go. They look like Mercedes, are easy to maintain, take up less space, and cost a fraction of the real thing!

