

The SILVER STAR



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



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FIRST TUESDAY DINNER
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
 (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



Capitol City 'Que Club Gathers at Favorite BBQ Spot in Carson City

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Situated along historic Highway 395, Red's Old 395 Grill is a cozy restaurant that serves delicious BBQ, wood-fired pizzas, burgers, salads, and much more. The Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America visited Red's in 2021 and everyone was eager to revisit the Northern Nevada staple. Red's is famous in Carson City for its award-winning, house-smoked barbecue. Chef Jose, a legend in the local community,

hand-cuts all of the meat and creates the dynamic and delicious menu from scratch.

For this particular First Tuesday Dinner, 29 people attended, making it another successful event for the club. Friends were excited to share their recent vacations and travel adventures, and everyone had something to say about the hot weather. Last time, only one couple was brave enough to order Red's famous 'Que for Two. On this

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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.

Hello September

Summer in Full Swing in the Sierra Nevada

August was a turbo charged month for the Sierra Nevada Section, as we enjoyed a First Tuesday Dinner and the Annual Picnic and Show. September looks as though it's gearing up to be just as fun, with another First Tuesday Dinner on the calendar in a few days.

Our First Tuesday Dinner in August was held at Red's Old 395 Grill in Carson City. Vencil and I hosted a large group of club members inside the private dining room at Red's. We always have a great time at this well-known watering hole, and I'm sure we'll return again next year. Then, in mid-August, LaVern and Carlos Lucovich once again hosted the Annual Picnic and Show event at Bartley Ranch Regional Park in Reno. Following a delightful picnic at the park's pavilion, the club enjoyed a fantastic musical rendition of *The Adams Family*, put on by the Sierra School of Performing Arts.

In a few days, on September 5, Christy and Marcus Dodson are hosting

the Sierra Nevada Section at Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse in Reno. If you've never been to an authentic Brazilian all-you-can-eat steakhouse, then you are in for a treat. My only words of advice are to bring your appetite. This is one of Reno's hottest new restaurants, and we are all very excited to check it out. Be sure to reserve your spot at the table by contacting Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

If you have an idea for a dinner or a drive, please reach out to one of the board members so that we can help you get started. 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. As always, stay up to date on club events and news by following us on Facebook @SierraNevadaMBCA.

Gail Wells
President





First Tuesday Dinner

SEPTEMBER
5th 5:30 p.m.



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Capitol City 'Que

(Continued from Page 1)

evening, however, several couples shared the gigantic feast, with nearly everyone taking some leftovers home with them. Same as last time, the club

was generously given its own private dining room and dedicated server. The space is meticulously decorated with Western flair, and it was surprisingly

crowded in the main room, considering it was a Tuesday night. In addition to the 'Que for Two, guests also en-

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THE CLUB HAD ITS OWN PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT RED'S OLD 395.

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CLUB MEMBERS ENJOYED AN EVENING OF BBQ INCLUDING THE GIGANTIC 'QUE FOR TWO PLATTER.

Capitol City 'Que

(Continued from Page 4)

joyed wings, fry bread, spinach artichoke dip, tacos, nachos, salads, ribeye, steak, chicken piccata, Cajun chicken pasta, chicken pot pie, salmon, shrimp scampi, ribs, beef brisket, pizzas, burgers, and more. Those that had room in the tank added on chocolate fudge



cake, peach cobbler, and sundaes. Whiskey and wine were the drinks of choice for the night, and everyone seemed to find something to complement their entree.

The next First Tuesday Dinner will be September 5 at Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse in Reno, Nevada, hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. To RSVP, please contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901. First Tuesdays happen monthly and there are plenty of opportunities to host a dinner or driving event. If you'd like more information on hosting an event, please reach out to Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

V&T Railroad

Drive & Vintage Train Ride

Round Trip Train Ride from
Carson City to Virginia City,
Stay for lunch, & take the
train back to Carson City.

Locomotive

Sunday, October 15, 2023

We will depart Mercedes-Benz of Reno at 9:00 A.M., to drive down to Carson City. Board the train at the V&T Eastgate Depot and ride up to Virginia City. The train ride is 1.5 hours long and \$52 for round trip tickets. There will be three hours for sightseeing and lunch. We will return on the afternoon train to Carson City, back to our cars.

OCT
15th



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Transparent Hood

Mercedes-Benz Invisible Front Improves Visibility & Driver Responsiveness

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

At's probably been a long time since you looked over your shoulder to back out of a parking space. These days, most cars have backup cameras, making old-school mirrors a thing of the past.

Off-road vehicles, such as the Jeep Gladiator and Ford Raptor, have been using an even more innovative camera technology to assist drivers on tricky trails. A forward-facing camera on these vehicles can detect objects on the road and changes in terrain that

the driver likely cannot view from their seat.

Mercedes®-Benz has taken this off-road feature and infused it into select sport utility vehicles, including the all-electric EQE. As usual, Mercedes

(Continued on Page 10)

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THE TRANSPARENT HOOD FEATURE USES A SURROUND-VIEW NETWORK OF CAMERAS TO FILM UNDERNEATH THE FRONT OF THE CAR.

Transparent Hood

(Continued from Page 8)

has taken the technology to a whole new level with the introduction of its transparent hood feature. When the vehicle is in Off-Road Mode, drivers

can access the feature on the MBUX infotainment system, which uses the surround-view network of cameras to film underneath the front of the car.

The virtual representation of the road is displayed on the screen, making the hood of the car appear completely

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THE TRANSPARENT HOOD LETS YOU LOOK DOWN THROUGH THE FRONT OF THE VEHICLE.


Transparent Hood

(Continued from Page 10)

transparent, as if you are looking straight down through the front end of the vehicle.

The transparent hood works at speeds up to five miles per hour and it

can figure out the composition of a trail's surface to determine which traction mode is best. The camera gives a 360° view, allowing the car to prepare for gradient and topographical

changes. In addition to the all-electric Mercedes EQE, the transparent hood is also available on certain internal-combustion and hybrid models, such as the GLC, GLE, and GLS. 

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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 2. Rubber around the rim
- 4. Part between crankshaft and piston
- 6. Opens and closes
- 9. Correcting the wheels' angles
- 11. Ignites in the cylinder
- 13. Sprays fuel
- 14. Gasoline and diesel
- 15. Goes up and down in the cylinder
- 16. Rotating shaft in the bottom of the engine
- 17. Part of the exhaust closest to the engine

DOWN

- 1. You need this to drive a car
- 3. Measurement of the piston's travel distance
- 4. Part of the engine, where the valves are mounted
- 5. Box of different gears
- 7. Center part of a wheel
- 8. Silences exhaust
- 10. Screws onto a bolt
- 12. Sucks in air
- 16. Engages and disengages the connection between engine and transmission
- 18. Dampens vibrations from a spring

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



Picnic & Show

Club Enjoys Annual Outdoor Musical at Bartley Ranch in Reno

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In mid-August, 18 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America gathered at Bartley Ranch Regional Park for the Annual Summer Picnic and Show. This year, the musical was *The Addams Family*, put on by the Sierra School of Performing Arts. Many thanks go to LaVern and Carlos Lucovich for hosting the evening. Club members from as far away as Carson City and Gardnerville traveled into Reno for the fun annual gathering.

The Addams Family, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story, and it's every father's nightmare. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family, a man her parents have never met. If that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell

her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before, which is keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family

(Continued on Page 15)

Crossword Puzzle Answers

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Across | 15. Piston | 5. Transmission |
| 2. Tire | 16. Crankshaft | 7. Rim |
| 4. Connecting rod | 17. Header | 8. Muffler |
| 6. Valve | | 10. Nut |
| 9. Alignment | Down | 12. Intake |
| 11. Spark plug | 1. License | 16. Clutch |
| 13. Jet | 3. Stroke | 18. Damper |
| 14. Fuel | 4. Cylinder head | |



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Picnic & Show

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on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's normal boyfriend and his parents.

Before the performance, the group enjoyed a picnic dinner at the pavilion inside the park. Everyone brought standard picnic fare, with a few homemade standouts. One couple prepared a delightful Italian angel hair pasta salad with artichoke hearts and olives. Another duo dazzled the club with moist, homemade lemon cupcakes with tart citrus icing.



Other food choices included croissant sandwiches, deviled eggs, fried chicken, bruschetta, and fruit and vegetable trays. Attendees brought their own drinks to enjoy, and there were a few bottles of wine peppered throughout the group.

The show took place at the Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater inside the park. Members thoroughly enjoyed the musical, with many people raving about the vocalists' per-

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CLUB MEMBERS ENJOYED A BEAUTIFUL EVENING WITH MODERATE TEMPERATURES, PERFECT FOR AN OUTDOOR PLAY.




Picnic & Show

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performances. It was a beautiful night and the weather was fantastic. The forecast was spotty, with thunderstorms threatening to come over the mountain, but thankfully they stayed away.

The next club event will be the V&T

Railroad Ride, hosted by Sue and Marc Dodson, on October 15. RSVP to this event by contacting Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080. Events happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for any-

one 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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EVENTS

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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!

But wait, there's more...
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.

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

January 2, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined

February 6, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, location to be determined



Insults

The Lost Art of the Attack on Dignity

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.)



et's face it, the art of a proper insult has been lost over time. Today, delivering an insult seems to involve uninspired vulgarity or a rude hand gesture. Here are a few great insults delivered by famous historical figures.

- Pope John Paul XXIII when asked, "How many people work in the Vatican?": "About half."
- Albert Einstein: "Only two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not so sure about the former."
- Dorothy Parker, after a drunk man commented, "I can't bear fools": "Apparently your mother could."
- Mark Twain: "The trouble ain't there is too many fools, but that the lightning ain't distributed right."
- Oscar Wilde: "Thinking is the most unhealthy disease in the world, and people die of it just as they die of any disease. Luckily, in England at any rate, thought is not catching."
- Winston Churchill: "Americans will always try to do the right thing, after they've tried everything else."
- Mae West: "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."
- Mahatma Gandhi when asked, "What do you think of Western Civilization?": "I

think it would be a good idea."

- Groucho Marx: "I never forget a face, but in your case, I'll make an exception."
- Oscar Wilde: "Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go."
- Victor Hugo, on Napoleon: "God was bored by him."
- Catherine The Great: "If you won't be a good example, then you'll have to be a horrible warning."
- Kurt Vonnegut Jr.: "If your brains were dynamite, there wouldn't be enough to blow your hat off."
- Elizabeth Taylor: "Some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses."
- Beethoven: "I like your opera. I think I will set it to music."
- Kierkegaard: "My opponent is a glob of snot."
- Hunter S. Thompson, on presidential candidate Hubert Humphrey: "They don't hardly make 'em like Hubert anymore, but just to be on the safe side, he should be castrated anyway."
- King Edward VIII: "The thing that impresses me most about America is the way parents obey their children."
- Milton Berle: "You can lead a man to Congress, but you can't make him think."
- Nero, while looking at a man he had just killed: "How could I have been afraid of a man with such a long nose?"
- Billy Wilder: "He has Van Gogh's ear for music."
- Ernest Hemingway: "Poor Faulkner. He thinks big emotions come from big words."
- Christopher Hitchens: "If you gave

Jerry Falwell an enema, you could bury him in a matchbox."

- Joan Rivers: "Prince Charles's ears are so big, he could hang-glide over the Falklands."
- Mark Twain on Jane Austen: "Every time I read *Pride and Prejudice*, I want to dig Jane Austen up and hit her over the skull with her own shin bone."
- William Shakespeare: "The tautness of his face sours ripe grapes."
- John Adams: "In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress."
- H.L. Mencken on FDR: "If he became convinced tomorrow that coming out for cannibalism would get him the votes he needs so sorely, he would begin fattening a missionary in the White House yard come Wednesday."
- Margaret Thatcher: "If you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman."
- Lily Tomlin: "I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific."
- Groucho Marx: "He may look like an idiot and talk like an idiot, but don't let that fool you, he really is an idiot."
- EE Cummings: "A politician is an arse upon which everyone has sat except a man."
- Calvin Coolidge on a performance: "What do you think of the singer's execution? I'm all for it."
- George Bernard Shaw to Churchill: "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." Churchill replied: "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second, if there is one." 🚗