

The SILVER STAR



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



Newsletter Editor
 Marcus Dodson
 1840 Wendy Way
 Reno, Nevada 89509
 (775) 997-9901

marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com
 sierranevada.mbca.org
 facebook.com/SierraNevadaMBCA

MBCA National Office
 (800) 637-2360 • www.mbca.org

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V&T RAILROAD EVENT
OCTOBER 15, 2023
 (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



Churrasco Steakhouse All-You-Can-Eat Brazilian Feast in Reno

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In Brazil, an all-you-can-eat style of restaurant service is called a rodízio. In early September, 25 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America met at Churrasco Steakhouse for a First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. Reno's very own rodízio was excited to host our club, and everyone had a great time. Also known as a churrascaria, this evening's dinner included servers that come to the tables with knives and skewers of premium meat. Guests were able to choose which cuts of meat to sample,

and many of us went for the whole gambit. The group was given a private dining room, and guests sat at tables adorned with white tablecloths and napkins.

Legend has it that the tradition of the rodízio started in the mid-10th century when a waiter accidentally delivered meat to a diner, but instead of taking the plate away, they let the guest sample the meat first. I'm not sure if this story holds any weight, but if so, I'm sure glad that waiter made that mistake and created this tradition.

In Brazilian churrascaria tradition,

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Boo!

Spooky Season in the Sierra Nevada

Happy October to all of my friends! I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and good spirits. Autumn is officially here in the Sierra Nevadas, and I love seeing the Halloween decorations that start to come out around town this time of year. September was a wonderful month for our group, and we are gearing up, no pun intended, for a fantastically fun October.

Last month, Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted the club at Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse in Reno. This was the first time a few people had ever visited an all-you-can-eat Brazilian restaurant, and they did not leave disappointed. I hope we can make it back to Churrasco in the future, for it was a simply marvelous dining experience from beginning to end.

This month, we have two dynamic events on the calendar. On October 15, Sue and Marc Dodson are hosting the club for a vintage train ride from Carson City to Virginia City on the V&T

Railway. I hope all of you have reserved your spot on this historic train ride, and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Then, on October 21, meet me in the backyard of Christy and Marcus Dodson's home for their Oktoberfest Party. There will be free food and drinks, as well as lots of fun. Last year's Oktoberfest Party was a big hit and we are all excited to be celebrating the harvest season together once again. Be sure to RSVP to both of these events so you are sure to have a spot.

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 reach out to me at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

Gail Wells
President



Attn: Marcus Dodson
1840 Wendy Way
Reno, Nevada 89509
(775) 997-9901
marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com
sierranevada.mbca.org
facebook.com/SierraNevadaMBCA

SIERRA NEVADA OFFICERS

Gail Wells, President
(307) 763-1701
blackswan342@gmail.com

Vencil Wells, Vice President
(818) 667-9745
vencil@vencil.com

Christy Dodson, Secretary
(775) 771-7777
christy@dodsonpublications.com

LaVern Lucovich, Treasurer
(775) 882-4697
lipinski3541@gmail.com

Patti Lamski, Director-at-Large
(775) 224-1794
topat83@aol.com

Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor & Webmaster
(775) 997-9901
marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com

Marc Dodson, Membership Chair
(775) 771-1080
marc.v.dodson@gmail.com

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.

V&T Railroad

Drive & Vintage Train Ride

OCT
15th



Join the Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club for a fully narrated excursion through tunnels, canyons, & mining towns!

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 8:30 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.

RSVP to Marc Dodson marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080



Churrasco Steakhouse

(Continued from Page 1)

prime beef is slow roasted over a Brazilian-style rotisserie grill. The beef selections included: picanha, the prime part of the top sirloin; picanha com alho, or

bite-sized cuts of the top sirloin; alcatra, a special cut of top sirloin; fraldinha, or the bottom sirloin; filet mignon; filet mignon with bacon; beef ancho, or rib

eye; and costela de boi, or beef ribs.

Lamb entrees included pernil de cordeiro, or leg of lamb, and costela de

(Continued on Page 5)

THE CLUB HAD ITS OWN PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT THE STEAKHOUSE.



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CLUB MEMBERS ENJOYED AN EVENING OF ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT MEAT SERVED TABLESIDE AT THE BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE.

Churrasco Steakhouse

(Continued from Page 4)


cordeiro, or lamb chop. These two offerings were perfect for lamb lovers, as well as those that were curious to taste it. They were both seasoned wonderfully and were tender off the bone. Pork options were: costela de porco, or pork ribs; lombo de porco com queijo, or pork loin; and linguiça, or pork sausage. All of these cuts were tender,

savory, and juicy. Chicken enthusiasts rejoiced at their options, which included frango com bacon, otherwise known as chicken wrapped in bacon, and chicken thighs.

Served tableside, the meat was perfectly tender and had amazing flavor, thanks in large part to the rock salt that is commonly used in Brazil. The wait-

ers were so adept at slicing thin layers of the delicate meat that it was almost artistic. The wine list was expansive, and many people in our group chose delicious options to complement the all-you-can-eat meat.

In addition to the tableside meat options, Churrasco had a beautiful spread of chilled fresh salads, hot sides, sauces, imported cheeses, and much more. The buffet included mushroom risotto, salmon, chicken stroganoff, Caesar salad, mango salad, chicken salad, quinoa salad, potato salad, boiled eggs, assorted vegetables, black beans, jasmine rice, scalloped potatoes, and much more. Freshly baked Brazilian cheese bread, fried banana, fried polenta, and season French fries were served tableside. These delicious options were a great complement to the bountiful meat offerings.

The next First Tuesday Dinner will be November 7 at Chi in Reno, hosted by Gail and Vencil Wells. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701. 



OCT 21st

Beer Festival

Oktoberfest



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THE ALL-TERRAIN WAGON'S WHEEL ARCHES FEATURE DARK GRAY CLADDING, GIVING IT A RUGGED LOOK.



2024 E-Class All-Terrain

New Mercedes-Benz Rugged & Versatile All-Terrain Wagon

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



Does the idea of driving a sleek, four-door vehicle intrigue you, but you don't want to sacrifice the ability to traverse rugged terrain? Mercedes®-Benz has you covered with its newly unveiled and refreshed E-Class All-Terrain wagon. Rugged on the outside and underneath, the E 450 All-Terrain Wagon pairs brains with brawn, making it one of the most versatile options on the market.

Just like its sedan counterpart, the new E 450 4MATIC All-Terrain has a fresh, new look for 2024. This high-riding, all-wheel-drive wagon is an ideal choice for luxury car consumers who want to do the occasional off-road adventure but don't want a full-on SUV. Mercedes has a loyal E-Class following, yet this new iteration appears to be an attempt to lure a more adventurous generation to the luxury wagon segment.

The front grille of the E 450 All-Ter-

rain Wagon features two bars with an iridium silver finish in the middle and a revised lower fascia. The standard wheels are 18", although 19" and 20" are available as options. The wheel arches feature dark gray cladding, adding a striking dimension to the overall look of the vehicle's side view.

Outdoor enthusiasts will be happy to hear that the rugged vehicle can hold 21.7 cubic feet of gear or supplies, and can be expanded to 64.6 cubic feet with the rear seats down. A power tailgate and retractable luggage cover come standard. The overall size difference between the E-Class All-Terrain Wagon and the E-Class Sedan is not that large. In length, width, and height, the E-Class All-Terrain Wagon is not more than 1" larger in all dimensions.

A mild-hybrid E 450 4MATIC option is available, which comes with a turbocharged 3.0-liter inline-six engine that puts out 375 horsepower from 5,800 to 6,100 rpm and 369 lb-ft. of

(Continued on Page 10)



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2024 All-Terrain

(Continued from Page 8)

torque. The electric boost system provides 23 horsepower and 151 lb-ft. of torque. Speed demons can expect to reach 60 mph in 4.6 seconds, and there's an electronically limited top speed of 130 mph. The wagon has been lifted by 1/2" and a new cladding along the bottom of the car will be advantageous for off-road excursions. A revised nine-speed automatic transmission sends power to all four wheels, and the wagon comes equipped with Mercedes' Airmatic air suspension system, which automatically lowers the vehicle at speeds of over 75 mph to reduce wind resistance.

The All-Terrain Wagon comes with the beloved Mercedes MBUX 14.4" touchscreen infotainment display, just like the sedan version. When in the off-road driving program, the central screen switches over to show a com-



pass, latitude and longitude coordinates, a vehicle angle indicator, and tire pressures. The innovative transparent hood feature that we wrote about last issue is part of the 360° camera's visibility.

The interior of the All-Terrain Wagon is nearly identical to its sedan counterpart, including a 12.3" digital gauge

cluster tucked behind the steering wheel, as well as leather seats and ambient lighting. Safety is a priority in this vehicle, with attention assist, active brake assist, and a parking package all included in the standard suite of technology. An optional Driver Assistance Package adds active steering assist, ac-

(Continued on Page 11)

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THE NEW ALL-TERRAIN WAGON
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 2024.


2024 E-Class All-Terrain

(Continued from Page 10)

tive lane keeping assist, active speed limit assist, and adaptive cruise control.

Pricing hasn't been released, and interested parties can expect that information to come closer to the car's launch.

Customers can surely expect the price tag to be north of the 2023 model's \$71,250 starting price. The official public premiere took place in Munich at the IAA Mobility event, and American con-

sumers can expect to see it hit dealership floors in 2024. Rumors of a pricier, faster Mercedes-AMG E63 variant are swirling, but we will have to wait and see what this lineup reveals next year. 

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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



A crossword puzzle grid with 32 numbered starting points for clues. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and light blue squares for empty space. The numbers are placed in the top-left corner of each starting square.

ACROSS

- 2. Miles allowed to be driven each year on a lease
- 4. Cash payment made at the beginning
- 5. Cover damage to your own vehicle
- 6. Things like an extended warranty that would be exempt from sales tax
- 9. Discounts given by the dealer/manufacturer
- 11. Length of lease
- 13. Price negotiated by you and dealer
- 14. Rate that computes finance charge
- 16. Covers damage or loss to your vehicle from fire, theft, vandalism, and other causes
- 17. Price negotiated by dealer and buyer
- 19. Contract made between company and lessee
- 22. What you pay before insurance kicks in
- 24. Money held by dealer to pay for damage
- 26. Covers your liability for injuries to others
- 29. Average annual cost divided by original
- 30. License and title transfer fees
- 31. Protection plan on your car
- 32. Amount that customer has left to pay

DOWN

- 1. Tax computed on the purchase price
- 3. Protects you from uninsured persons
- 7. Market value when you sell to someone else
- 8. Covers damage to other people, including their car
- 10. Expected value of a vehicle at the end of a lease period
- 12. Sticker price
- 15. Reduces lease price
- 18. Vehicle history
- 19. Charge for processing the lease contract
- 20. Out-the-door price
- 21. Loss of value as the car gets older
- 23. Everything is covered through a warranty
- 25. Amount you get for your old car when you trade in
- 27. Website that tells you your car's worth
- 28. Bare minimum coverage

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



THE WINNING 1937 MERCEDES-BENZ 540K SPECIAL ROADSTER AT THE CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE IN PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

Best of Show

Mercedes 540K Special Roadster Named Winner at Concours D'Elegance

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

The Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance® is known as an unmatched tradition of automotive excellence. Since 1950, this show has been the premier celebration of the automobile. In 2023, 216 cars from 18 countries and 30 states pulled onto the competition field at . At this year's 72nd Annual Concours D'Elegance, a 1937 Mercedes®-Benz 540K Special Roadster was named Best of Show. This amazing vehicle was first owned by the Shah of Afghanistan and is one of just three similar cars in existence. Today, it is owned by Jim Patterson of the Patterson Collection from Louisville, Kentucky.

"This 540K balances strength with sweeping lines and style, and its history is unique," said Concours Chairman Sandra Button. "In talking with Patterson about this car, I was impressed by the time and thought invested in this restoration. Every piece of this beautiful Mercedes-Benz was

researched so carefully to honor its history."

For over 70 years, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance has been the most important event on the West Coast for au-

(Continued on Page 15)

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

- 2. Mileage allowed
- 4. Down payment
- 5. Collision
- 6. Nontaxable items
- 9. Rebates
- 11. Lease term
- 13. Lease price
- 14. Interest rate
- 16. Comprehensive
- 17. Purchase price
- 19. Lease

22. Deductible

- 24. Security deposit
- 26. Bodily injury
- 29. Rate of depreciation
- 30. Registration fees
- 31. Warranty
- 32. Balance due

Down

- 1. Sales tax
- 3. Uninsured motorist insurance
- 7. Resale value

- 8. Property damage
- 10. Residual value
- 12. MSRP
- 15. Down payment
- 18. Carfax
- 19. Loan fee
- 20. Delivered price
- 21. Depreciation
- 23. Bumper to bumper
- 25. Trade in value
- 27. Kelley Blue Book
- 28. Liability

Best of Show

(Continued from Page 14)

tomobile enthusiasts. Visitors and spectators at the show can spot bright green ribbons on a host of cars, which signifies that they've participated in the time-honored tradition of the Pebble Beach Tour D'Elegance. Every year, the Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance raises millions of dollars that benefit more than 90 local charities. This year, the event raised more than \$2.68 million for charity, bringing the total charitable donations to over \$37 million to date.

Before cars compete for Best of Show, they must first win their class. In this preliminary stage, Chief Class Judges, Honorary Team Leaders, the Chief Judge, the Chairman, and the Chief Honorary Judge cast their votes for the best among the entries. The top three or four who amass the most votes are called to the stage to be recognized as Best of Show Nominees.

This year, the Best of Show Nominees were: a 1930 Mercedes-Benz 710 SS Special Roadster, Auriga Collection, Germany; a 1932 Alfa Romeo 8C 2300 Corto Figoni Cabriolet, care of Gregor Fisker, private collection, London, United Kingdom; and a 1939 Delahaye 165 Figoni et Falaschi Cabriolet, Peter Mullin Automotive Museum Foundation, Oxnard, California.



Keep your eyes peeled around Northern Nevada, as our area had several winning cars at the Pebble Beach event. Steve and Marilee Hamilton of Washoe Valley won the Gwen Graham Most Elegant Convertible Elegance Award for their 1950 Talbot-Lago T26 Grand Sport Saoutchik Cabriolet. A 1933 Duesenberg SJ Weymann Speedster won the FIVA Prewar Trophy, a 1958 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud I "Honeymoon Express" Freestone and Webb Drophead Coupe won the Class O-4 Postwar

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THE MERCEDES-BENZ 540K SPECIAL ROADSTER ON THE GRASS AT PEBBLE BEACH IN CALIFORNIA. BELOW: THE TROPHY.




Best of Show

(Continued from Page 15)

British Luxury, and a 1958 Ferrari 250 GT Pinin Farina Cabriolet won the Class L-2 Postwar Preservation, all from The Anne Brockinton Lee and Robert M. Lee Automobile Collection from Sparks.

“In Kentucky, we talk about winning the Derby. Well, there’s such a thing as winning the Triple Crown,” said Patterson. “I’ve won this Concours twice before today. This is a Triple Crown for me.”

Prior to this year’s Best of Show win, Bugatti and Mercedes-Benz were tied with the most Best of Show wins. This win for Patterson and his 540K puts Mercedes-Benz in the lead, with ten wins in total. 

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PARTY

DECEMBER 14

SAVE THE DATE

The Club at ArrowCreek

ITEMS of INTEREST

EVENTS

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Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.

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 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 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



Annual
**HOLIDAY
DINNER**
BRINGING ALL OF US TOGETHER

SAVE THE DATE
December 14, 2023
at The Club at ArrowCreek



IN CLOSING

Why So Serious?

Cute, Spooky, & Fabulous Automobile Halloween Costumes

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.)

Who says children are the only people that can wear Halloween costumes? We think it's totally acceptable to dress your car up in a spooky costume. Check out some of these fantastic automobile Halloween costumes we found.

