

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • November 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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

V&T Railroad	1
President's Message	2
Officers	2
November Dinner.....	3
Holiday Party	6
CLA Class	8
Crossword Puzzle.....	12
Oktoberfest	13
MBUX Smart Home	15
MBCA Raffle.....	17
Items of Interest	18
Minutes	18
Events	18
In Closing.....	19

FIRST TUESDAY DINNER
NOVEMBER 7, 2023
 (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



V&T Railroad Club Enjoys Vintage Train Ride in Carson City

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In October, 19 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America trekked to Carson City to take a vintage round-trip train ride to Virginia City, hosted by Sue and Marc Dodson. The day started with a drive from Mercedes-Benz of Reno as a group to Carson City, where everyone boarded the train at Eastgate Depot. Club members on the train ride rediscovered Nevada's rich history in mining and mills as they

meandered through tunnels, canyons, and mining towns aboard a restored 1914 Pullman coach led by a 1914 Baldwin Mikado2-8-2 steam locomotive.

The train ride was very relaxing, and was fully narrated with historical facts and anecdotes from the knowledgeable V&T staff. After departing from the Eastgate Depot in Carson City, the locomotive meandered along the 12 track to Virginia City. Once the group was able to depart, they enjoyed a fun 3½-hour

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



A Cornucopia of Blessings *An Abundance of Fun & Friends This Thanksgiving*

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect on what we are all most thankful for. In our home, we are thankful for our friends, both human and furry, as well as our health, family, and good tidings. Of course, Vencil and I are thankful for the Sierra Nevada Section and all of the wonderful people we have met over the past few years. We are lucky and grateful to live in this beautiful area and have the ability to explore the mountains and Lake Tahoe with this fantastic club.

Last month, our club had two exciting events on the calendar. In mid-October, Sue and Marc Dodson hosted the group on a vintage train ride on the V&T from Carson City to Virginia City. The 24-mile train ride was spectacular and included time for everyone to explore Virginia City before returning to the capitol. We saw mines, silver ore veins, an old mining town site, wild mustangs, and more. Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted the club at their

home in Reno for a dazzlingly authentic Oktoberfest Party. The food, drinks, music, and decor were wonderful and everyone had so much fun. This boisterous event is always one of the club's favorite get-togethers.

Next week, on November 7, Vencil and I are hosting the club at Chi in Reno. This is one of our favorite restaurants in town and it is definitely some of the best Asian food in Reno. Be sure to check out the calendar in the back of this Newsletter and RSVP to our upcoming dinners and events, and don't forget to RSVP for our annual Holiday Dinner Party. This year it will be held at ArrowCreek Country Club, so you don't want to miss it!

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.

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.



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ABOVE: THE GROUP IN FRONT OF A V&T TRAIN CAR. BELOW: ON THE HIGHWAY TO CARSON CITY.

V&T Railroad

(Continued from Page 1)

stopover in the historic town. Guests explored the many shops, saloons, and restaurants along the 19th-century town's boardwalk.

Some of the route highlights included a fully narrated train tour, a pass through two historic train tunnels, wildlife and mustang sightings, historic

mining town ruins, Gold Hill cemetery, Combination Mine, and the 120'-deep Overman Pit. Riding the V&T Railway

(Continued on Page 5)

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V&T Railroad

(Continued from Page 4)

is one of the most fascinating activities in Northern Nevada, and the group had a wonderful time immersing itself in the rich history of the V&T Railway and the surrounding area.

The 1914 Pullman-built coaches were originally used on the Delaware and Lackawanna Western Railroad until the 1970s and 1980s. Tom Gray purchased



them from the Kettle Moraine Railway outside of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Each car holds 72 passengers and has clerestory windows, open vestibules, and Hale and Kilborn wicker walkover

seats.

They originally came equipped with steam heat and a drop hopper, and have been refurbished to add flush toilets and other improvements. The Pullman coaches owned by the V&T are also known as Boonton coaches, having run on the Boonton line in New Jersey.

The next Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America event is the Annual Christmas Party on December 14 at The Club at Arrow-Creek. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

If you're interested in hosting a drive or event, please reach out to Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701 for help and to reserve your date. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook. 



SIERRA NEVADA MBCA

HOLIDAY *Party*



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 6:00 P.M.

THE CLUB AT ARROWCREEK

2905 Arrowcreek Pkwy, RENO

Entrée Choices

 Seared Salmon
with soy orange reduction & steamed rice

 Filet Mignon
with cinnamon sweet potato mash & demiglace

\$95
per-person

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**entrées are per-person & include
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A LARGE NUMBER OF
LEDS ON THE GRILL OF THE
CLA CONCEPT CAR ADDS TO
ITS UNIQUE EXTERIOR DESIGN.

CLA Class

Elegance Meets Innovation in Long-Range EV Concept Car

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

At the IAA Mobility show that kicked off in Munich, Germany, in September, several car companies unveiled their newest technologies and concepts. The standout debut at the show was from Mercedes®-Benz with its Concept CLA Class. Mercedes has blended unique, beautiful aesthetics with its masterful engineering prowess to create a car that

is captivatingly graceful and contemporary at the same time.

Mercedes even built the concept car its own two-story, windowless showroom in the heart of Munich. It included a light display from the Concept CLA Class itself, which showed off an impressive number of LEDs on the grille, roof, and within the cabin. The striking, low-energy LED lights on the front of the car feature an animated star

pattern, which elevate the car's exterior design. Heavy chrome usage and a smooth glasshouse give the car a sleek, cutting-edge look. Powerful wheel arches house distinctive 21" wheels, which are adorned with a beautiful star pattern.

The Concept CLA Class on display previewed the new Mercedes-Benz Modular Architecture (MMA) platform that introduces 800 V technology for the first time within the brand. MMA boasts the ability to charge the battery faster, as well as more efficiently. Mercedes says the electric consumption is 5.2 miles per kW hour, or the equivalent of the one-liter per 100 km car. The electric car will be offered in single-motor rear-drive and dual-motor all-wheel drive variants. Power comes from a single rear-mounted permanent magnet synchronous motor that makes 235 horsepower. Using Mercedes-Benz Electric Drive Unit technology from its concept car predecessor, the VISION

(Continued on Page 10)



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CLA Class

(Continued from Page 8)

EQXX, the CLA Class requires nearly zero rare-earth materials.

“The Concept CLA Class is the fore-runner for an entirely new all-electric segment of entry-level vehicles at Mercedes-Benz,” said Ola Källenius, Chief Executive Officer of the Mercedes-Benz Group. “The range will comprise a total of four new models, including a four-door coupe, a wagon, and two stunning SUVs, each with significantly elevated product substance. This new model family is inspired by a generation of car buyers who want that unmistakable Mercedes-Benz feel, with more features, even greater comfort and safety, and the most advanced technology. They also seek a sustainable choice that is a cut above the rest.

The car’s output flows through a two-speed transmission that enables better efficiency over a wider range of



THE CABIN HAS A SPA-LIKE ELEGANCE, ACCORDING TO MERCEDES-BENZ DESIGNERS.

speeds. A next-generation heat pump conveys powertrain heat to the cabin, and also extracts heat from the outside air, even in cold temperatures. Range anxiety is a thing of the past with the Concept CLA Class, as the performance specs are impressive. The range is estimated at 400 miles of range with an efficiency near 150 MPGe. The electric battery architecture allows DC fast-

charging of about 200 miles per 15 minutes. Two different lithium-ion battery configurations will be offered, with a longer-range option being the pricier one. The entry-level lithium-iron phosphate battery will be less costly, but also have less range. However, 400 miles is nothing to shrug at.

“The technology that provides the

(Continued on Page 11)

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CLA Class

(Continued from Page 10)

foundation for the Concept CLA Class represents an entirely new approach for Mercedes-Benz and incorporates many learnings from our groundbreaking VISION EQXX technology program," said Markus Schäfer, Mercedes-Benz Chief Technology Officer. "For instance, our engineers have maximized efficiency by driving down losses in its 800 V electric-drive system. It also features innovative battery cell chemistry as well as a high level of integration, enabling excellent energy density."


The cabin has a spa-like elegance, according to Mercedes-Benz designers. The user experience is elevated in the Concept CLA Class, with an enhanced design inside its cabin. The car is 185" in length, which is nearly identical to the current CLA. Also standard are the six-spoke 21" wheels, sculpted shark nose with undercut, and smooth flanks. The bottle-shaped body adds to the



car's aerodynamics, ultimately increasing its range and battery usage. It features a long hood, undoubtedly so Mercedes can offer an internal combustion engine option later with the same profile.

An innovative Child Presence Detection System safeguards your loved ones with this cutting-edge safety feature. The fan-favorite MBUX infotainment system is included, utilizing a user-

friendly superscreen. Technology advancements initially unveiled in the concept VISION EQXX have been transferred to the newly debuted Concept CLA Class.

This new electric luxury car will begin production in 2024, making the CLA Class a 2025 United States market option. We can also expect a pair of SUVs to follow that will replace the GLA and GLB. 

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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



17

15

14

12

10

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

11

13

16

ACROSS

3. Suspension setup that uses layers of these

6. Part that secures the piston to the crankshaft

8. Gauge used to measure rpms

10. Used to drive a manual transmission

13. Chassis name for Mustangs made 1977-1993

14. Part where coolant is held

15. Part of brake that pinches the rotor

17. Part that takes fuel out of the tank

DOWN

1. Part that turns the flywheel/flexplate

2. Way to measure engine size

4. Type of engine layout where the pistons lie on their sides

5. Device that mixes air and fuel mechanically

7. Part of a rim where air is injected

9. This needs to be drained and replaced

11. Hydraulic piston used in a car's suspension

12. Tool used by the driver to select gears

14. Maximum safe operating engine rpm

15. Part that opens and closes valves

16. Part that cools the engine

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.



Oktoberfest

Authentic Bavarian Bash in Reno

by Vencil Wells, Board Member

Last month, Christy and Marcus Dodson hosted the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America at their home in Reno for their Third Annual Oktoberfest. The weather was lovely, nice and warm, making the festive celebration even more enjoyable. In total, 54 guests attended, and it was another great event at the home of the Dodson family. Guests were dazzled by the decorations, which included German flags and a specially designed cornhole set. I'm sure everyone felt like they were in the lush forests of Bavaria, traipsing through the hills in their lederhosen and dirndl dresses.

For those of you who are not familiar with the history of Oktoberfest, let me enlighten you. Held annually over a two-week period in Munich, Germany, Oktoberfest originated in 1810 in celebration in the marriage of the Prince of Bavaria to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. What started as a five-day festival full of horse races and an agricultural fair, transformed over the years into the modern iteration that includes food booths, large beer halls, and live music.

Cold beer was on tap, and wine was available for those that didn't want beer. The ambience was set with traditional German music piping through the speakers, and guests joked they felt like they were at a traditional beer hall.

(Continued on Page 14)

Crossword Puzzle Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Across | 15. Caliper | 7. Valve stem |
| 3. Leaf springs | 17. Fuel pump | 9. Oil |
| 6. Rod cap | Down | 11. Shock absorber |
| 8. Tachometer | 1. Starter | 12. Shifter |
| 10. Clutch | 2. Displacement | 14. Redline |
| 13. Fox body | 4. Boxer | 15. Camshaft |
| 14. Radiator | 5. Carburetor | 16. Water pump |



Oktoberfest

(Continued from Page 13)

As usual at a Dodson party, the food was the main attraction. This year's Oktoberfest featured another traditional German feast, including bratwurst, potato salad, and macaroni salad. The sausages were first steamed with beer and onions, then Sue Dodson and Terry Nielsen volunteered to



grill up the brats. Appetizers made their way around the guests, which included large German-style pretzels. Sue Dodson made her delectable apple strudel for dessert again, and everyone was excited to see its return.



The next Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America event is the Annual Christmas Party, which will be held December 14 at The Club at ArrowCreek in Reno. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.



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MBUX Smart Home

Mercedes Vehicles Reach Out to Connect with Smart Home Technology

by Camille Dodson, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Smart home technology has already revitalized the landscape of more intelligent and user-friendly homes. Homeowners with smart home technology have the

option to remotely control functions like temperature, lighting, and electrical appliances in their homes. With the new MBUX Voice Assistant smart home function, all Mercedes-Benz® vehicles equipped with the MBUX Voice Assis-

tant can control the smart home features of their home without ever having to take their hands off of the wheel.

Activating a smart home account is available as a complimentary service to
(Continued on Page 16)



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MBUX Smart Home

(Continued from Page 15)


provide additional functionality and convenience for Mercedes-Benz drivers and their companions. Smart home accounts for home devices can easily be linked to the customer's MBUX profile by generating a QR code in the central display and scanning it with a smartphone. Accounts can also be paired via the linked accounts menu option using the Mercedes me connect mobile app. The sophisticated authentication mechanism of Mercedes-Benz vehicles ensures that only authorized customers can obtain access to smart home appliances. Using and connecting the MBUX Voice Assistant to a smart home account does not require any additional fees or package upgrades for the user.

The MBUX Voice Assistant smart home feature supports a range of products from popular brands such as Philips® Hue, Samsung SmartThings®, TP-Link, and myQ® by Chamberlain Group. It also enables users to check

the status of various home appliances and systems by simply asking the assistant.

For added convenience, appliances by different providers can be connected at the same time and answer questions simultaneously. By starting any question with a simple "Hey Mercedes," the MBUX Voice Assistant can provide a wide variety of updates on the status of the user's home. This includes things like turning the lights off or on, checking if windows and doors are open, or even opening the garage door for your car before arriving home. With smart home integration of the MBUX system, users can even check their home motion detectors from the safety of their vehicle, increasing the security and comfort of the user without ever having to leave the driver's seat.



In addition to the smart home functionality, Mercedes has released a larger update for its MBUX infotainment system. The update includes Dolby® Atmos sound, Voice Assistant updates for controlling infotainment features, and the addition of the YouTube® web app in select 2024 vehicles equipped with Entertainment Package Plus. Mercedes is continuously improving its MBUX system, with plans to launch the third generation in 2025. The next-gen system will feature advanced app integrations and a host of other enhancements. 

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MORE INFO ON PAGE 6



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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?"

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 \$20!

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 \$40!

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 \$20 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 \$20, or you can call MBCA at (800) 637-2360.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.

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.

January 10, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA Second Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Pietro's Famiglia, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

March 3, 2024: San Francisco Bay Area MBCA, First Sunday Drive from Concord to the Grand Island Hotel, hosted by Doug Storkovich. For more info, contact Doug Storkovich at dstorkovich@hotmail.com.

March 5, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, MiCasa Too, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

March 24, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive and Tasting, hosted by Linda & Rick Iknoian, Minden Mill Distillery, Minden, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Linda Iknoian at linda_iknoian@comcast.net or (559) 978-6628.

July 20, 2024: 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 2-3, 2024: Hot August Nights, Virginia City, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956.

August 6-11, 2024: Hot August Nights, Reno, Nevada. www.hotaugustnights.net, (775) 356-1956.

MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Nevada MBCA Board of Directors Meeting

Location: Christy & Marcus Dodson's Home
Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:45 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:

Christy Dodson confirmed there was a quorum of directors present.

MINUTES:

Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter. Patti Lamski 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 \$4,119.89 in its bank account as of September 30, 2023. Expenditures for the last quarter were \$2,283.99 and income was \$1,540.00. 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 September 30, 2023, the club has 82 members. This is down two members from the previous quarter. New sign up brochures will be requested from National, they are currently on back order. Marcus Dodson made a motion to approve the Membership Report and Gail Wells seconded it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 👉 Christy Dodson presented receipts for the Oktoberfest for approval.
- 👉 The Board discussed the upcoming Christmas Party and went over all the details. The Board voted to buy down each member's dinner to \$95.00. \$300.00 will be spent on gifts (six \$50.00 gift cards.)
- 👉 Christy Dodson reported that 24 members sent in completed ballots. Board positions were all approved and will remain the same for 2024.
- 👉 The club is looking for more volunteers. Gail Wells will pass around a sign up sheet at the Christmas Party to get people to help plan events.

SECTION EVENTS:

- 👉 Gail and Vencil Wells will host a dinner on November 7 at Chi in Reno.
- 👉 The Christmas Party will be held on December 14 at The Club at Arrow-Creek in Reno.
- 👉 Gail and Vencil Wells will host the January Second Tuesday Dinner on January 9 at Pietro's in Sparks.
- 👉 Patti Lamski suggested and will look into touring the Train Museum, followed by dinner at The Blind Onion in Sparks.
- 👉 Christy Dodson will host a dinner on March 5 at MiCasa in Reno.
- 👉 Linda and Rick Iknoian will look into visiting the new Minden Mill Distillery in Minden, followed by a dinner at Great Basin.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 9, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Pietro's in Sparks.

ADJOURNMENT:

Marcus Dodson made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Christy Dodson seconded it. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

IN CLOSING

Terrible Car Mods

People Want to Modify & Upgrade Their Cars, but Some Shouldn't

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.)

Everyone wants to make their cars look their best. Some go the wash and wax route, while others go the enhancement route. Often, a modification can be a great way to upgrade your car. But sometimes, they're a total train wreck.

