



Mercedes-Benz Club

Sierra Nevada Section

December 2023

EDITOR'S NOTE



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HOLIDAY DINNER
DECEMBER 14, 2023
(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)

Season's Greetings

Holiday Issue Filled with Mercedes Presents

by Marcus Dodson, Sierra Nevada Section Club Newsletter Editor



The issue of *The Silver Star* that you are about to enjoy is our wonderful Christmas edition. Inside you'll find pictures and an article about an ugly sweater party that Mercedes-Benz® had. Additionally, you can read an article that dives deep into one of our favorite Christmas traditions and points out that this tasty decoration originated in Germany. I'm sure there's at least one interesting piece of holiday history that will jump out at you in this month's holiday themed crossword.

Also, we've included a traditional holiday cocktail recipe in this newsletter, so you can bring a piece of Europe into your own home this season. If you

do make a batch of eggnog, be sure to let me know how it turned out and send in a photo. Maybe it could even get into next month's issue. Even our video of the month is holiday themed. Make sure to use the link to watch the short video and see what happens to a Mercedes loving goose.

We are all so excited for our upcoming Holiday Party, which will be held December 14 at The Club at Arrow-Creek. Be sure to RSVP ASAP! Mercedes-Benz has always been a brand that has gotten into the holiday spirit, and I hope you find the feature stories in this issue to be enjoyable. I wish everyone in the Sierra Nevada Section a safe and happy Christmas season. 🚗

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



A December to Remember *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

This past year turned out to be the most successful year yet for the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America. Our calendar was filled with lively dinners and dynamic events, and 2024 is shaping up to be just as exciting. There are still plenty of opportunities to host a dinner or drive, and we would all love to try something new. Do you have a favorite restaurant in town? Is there a drive that you think would be a fun outing for our group? Reach out to any board member, as we would love to help you get an event on the calendar.

In November, Vencil and I hosted the club at Chi inside the Peppermill. As usual, the service, food, and decor were divine, and we will definitely try to return again in 2024. This restaurant is always happy to host us, and the dining room is one of the most beautiful spots in Reno.

On December 14, we have our Annual Christmas Party at The Club at ArrowCreek in Reno. Vencil and I are very excited to attend this event, as it's always our club's most elegant affair. Make sure to RSVP right away, if you haven't already done so. I hope to see all of you at this event so I can personally wish each of you a Happy Holiday.

I hope that all of you have a wonderful holiday season wherever you choose to spend it. Whether it be with friends or family, enjoy the season's tidings, and I look forward to seeing you all very soon. As always, stay up to date on club events and news by following us on Facebook @SierraNevadaMBCA. I truly hope that all of you have a wonderful Christmas with your families and a Happy New Year.

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.

SIERRA NEVADA MBCA

HOLIDAY *Party*



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

THE CLUB AT ARROWCREEK

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THIS 1964 230SL GOT ITS UGLY SWEATER DESIGN FROM MERCEDES-BENZ & ILLUSTRATOR JAMIE CULLEN.

Dressed for the Season

Mercedes had an Ugly Sweater Party for Their Cars

by Camille Dodson, reporter for the automotive industry

A common gag gift every holiday season, gifting an ugly sweater is a tradition that rolls around every winter. Ugly sweater competitions and parties have become commonplace in homes and work

spaces ever since the resurgence of unique sweater patterns in the early 2000s. Not many people would typically expect to see their cars dressed up for the occasion as well, but Mercedes-Benz® has always been a company that thinks outside of the box for its festive themes.

Mercedes-Benz and Mercedes-AMG® have used their innovative skills to bring a bit more festiveness to their sportiest vehicles like the G-Class Wagon and Mercedes-AMG GT. Models like these were wrapped in the traditional ugly Christmas sweater design, bringing out the inner car lover in everyone. The off-roading G-Class car was wrapped in a green and red Christmas-themed design, while the bad boy AMG GT was totally geeked out in a zany pink, white, red, and orange color palette and had Father Christmas sporting a red beanie with some funky 1980's glasses. Mercedes-Benz hasn't confirmed just yet whether their customers would even be able to purchase any of these ugly cars, but more than likely, the cars were just for show.

It is likely that these were not permanent changes to the cars' paint jobs, but

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Dressed for the Season

(Continued from Page 4)

instead were car wraps to add to the wrapped present looks for each car. Four different patterns, designed by European illustrator, Jamie Cullen, were

put on some of the more iconic Mercedes-Benz cars: a 1964 Pagoda, a Mercedes-AMG GT, a G-Class, and the EQC. Each of these cars featured in

a short Mercedes-Benz holiday film about not wanting socks or beard trimmers for Christmas, but instead wanting a Mercedes-Benz. 

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EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME AT CHI INSIDE THE PEPPERMILL CASINO.



Chi Club Enjoys Chinese Fine Dining in Reno

by Marcus Dodson, Sierra Nevada Section Club Newsletter Editor

An early November, 25 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America met at Chi in Reno for a delicious First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gail and Vencil Wells. Chi is one of Reno’s most delicious upscale restaurants, serving fine Asian cuisine inside the Peppermill. The club has been here several times, and everyone was excited to be back. Several club members additionally met up prior to the dinner at the cocktail lounge and shared martinis while also catching up and sharing their upcoming travel plans for the holidays.

Chef Benny Tsang blends traditional and contemporary flavors into his notable dishes, and the restaurant is richly decorated with Asian tapestries and statues. Standout menu options include spring rolls, roasted pork belly in a clay pot, braised duck, pad Thai, Mongolian beef, sweet and sour pork, beef chow fun, orange blossom chicken, moo goo gai pan, curry chicken, Szechuan eggplant, honey-glazed walnuts and prawns, spicy poached fish, and much more. Desserts include tapioca with mango, chocolate ginger lava cake, coconut cake, Thai tea cheesecake, lychee fruit, gelato, and a dazzling tableside flambé dessert. Chi offers a menu that

has something for everyone.

On this evening, the large group was situated at two big tables in the main area, and we were given our own dedicated servers for each table. Chi was a popular spot in town on this night, as the dining room quickly filled up with other guests. The service was excellent, with dishes arriving quickly and steaming hot.

The standout orders on this evening were coconut shrimp, kung pao chicken, moo shu pork, Peking duck, and assorted rice and noodle plates. Wine and beers were circulating, and several people ordered cocktails, for they remembered how good they were on their last visit. Some of the cocktail choices on this evening were the Asian mule, China peach, lychee martini, green tea yuzu cooler, and pineapple tequila margarita.

The next big event is the Holiday Party on December 14 at 6:00 at the Club at ArrowCreek. To RSVP, contact Marcus at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or call at (775) 997-9901. For more information and to sign up to host a 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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Volunteering

'Tis the Season for Giving & There are Many Ways to Help Your Club

by Christy Dodson, Sierra Nevada Section Club Secretary



ur wonderful club puts on an abundance of dinners, drives, and annual events. From First Tuesday Dinners to backyard parties to the Annual Christmas Party, we always have something exciting on the calendar. The reason all of these activities come to fruition is because some members choose to dedicate their precious time and energy into making the club better.

Not only does volunteering benefit the club, but it also positively impacts your life. Volunteering can provide your life with an additional sense of purpose. Being a member in the club and hosting a dinner for your friends can make you feel part of something greater than yourself. Engaging with

friends at monthly events, especially ones that you host, is incredibly mentally stimulating.

Volunteering within the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America can help you feel connected to those around you, as well as the community. Often, First Tuesday Dinner guests are visiting a beloved local restaurant for the very first time. If you have a favorite restaurant that you think others in the club would enjoy, volunteer to host a dinner there.

Sometimes at our events, you're situated next to the same group of people at a table. This can be comforting, especially if you spend the evening catching up, but there is a lot to be said for making new friends. By volunteering to host a dinner or drive, you're putting

yourself out there to interact with couples that you might not have had the pleasure of spending time with yet.

Does the idea of meeting new people terrify you? This is another area that volunteering can help you with. Reach out to a board member for some help, and get a dinner or drive on the calendar. Before you know it, people will be reaching out to you for details and to RSVP. Then, on the day of the event, you'll be ready to mix and mingle with all your new friends. Volunteering in the club is a great way to get you out of your comfort zone.

For the gregarious members in the club, volunteering to host an event can be a great opportunity to put your skills to work. Are you great at public speak-

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Volunteering

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ing? A driving event is a great option for you. Are you organized and communicative? Coordinating a First Tuesday Dinner is a fantastic idea. Put those problem-solving and critical thinking skills to the test by coordinating an overnight, out-of-town driving event.

This might all sound great, but I bet you have questions about the logistics around volunteering to plan an event. For a dinner event, first reach out to the restaurant and see if they're able to accommodate upwards of 25 people for a dinner. Find out if they provide a private dining room and if they'll do separate checks. We don't necessarily need a private dining room, but it often makes the night run more smoothly. Separate checks are a must, and you can assure the venue that our club is used to handling the complexities of this arrangement and it shouldn't pose an issue. Remind your contact at the

restaurant that even though it would be separate checks, most will be couples, so it may only be a dozen or so.

Next, contact the Board of Directors and let them know you have a restaurant in mind as well as a date. Typically we do dinner events on the first Tuesday of the month, but sometimes this can be shifted if the restaurant isn't open on Tuesdays. Marcus Dodson will get in touch with you to get specifics so that he can produce a flyer and promote your event in the Newsletter. Club members will reach out to you via text or email, and you simply need to keep track of who is attending. Many dinner events have cut-off dates to RSVP, so you will know ahead of time how many people to tell the restaurant to expect. The final step is to attend the dinner and have a fantastic evening.

The same series of steps occurs for a driving event, and Marcus Dodson can

help create a printable map for everyone to use on the day of the drive. Club drives usually start from Mercedes-Benz of Reno, but it's all up to you, and you can choose to be the leader or not. Often, we stop for lunch halfway through the day, and we will be sure to remind people to fill up with gas before we leave.

One other way you can volunteer is to run for a Board of Directors position. I say run, but in reality, we can easily find you a spot on the Board. There are several opportunities available, and you can reach out to the current Board to find an open position that suits your skills and availability. I do hope you will consider volunteering for our club, as I personally know how rewarding it has been for me. Plus, I would love to get to know everyone in the club a little bit better, and this is a great way to do that. 



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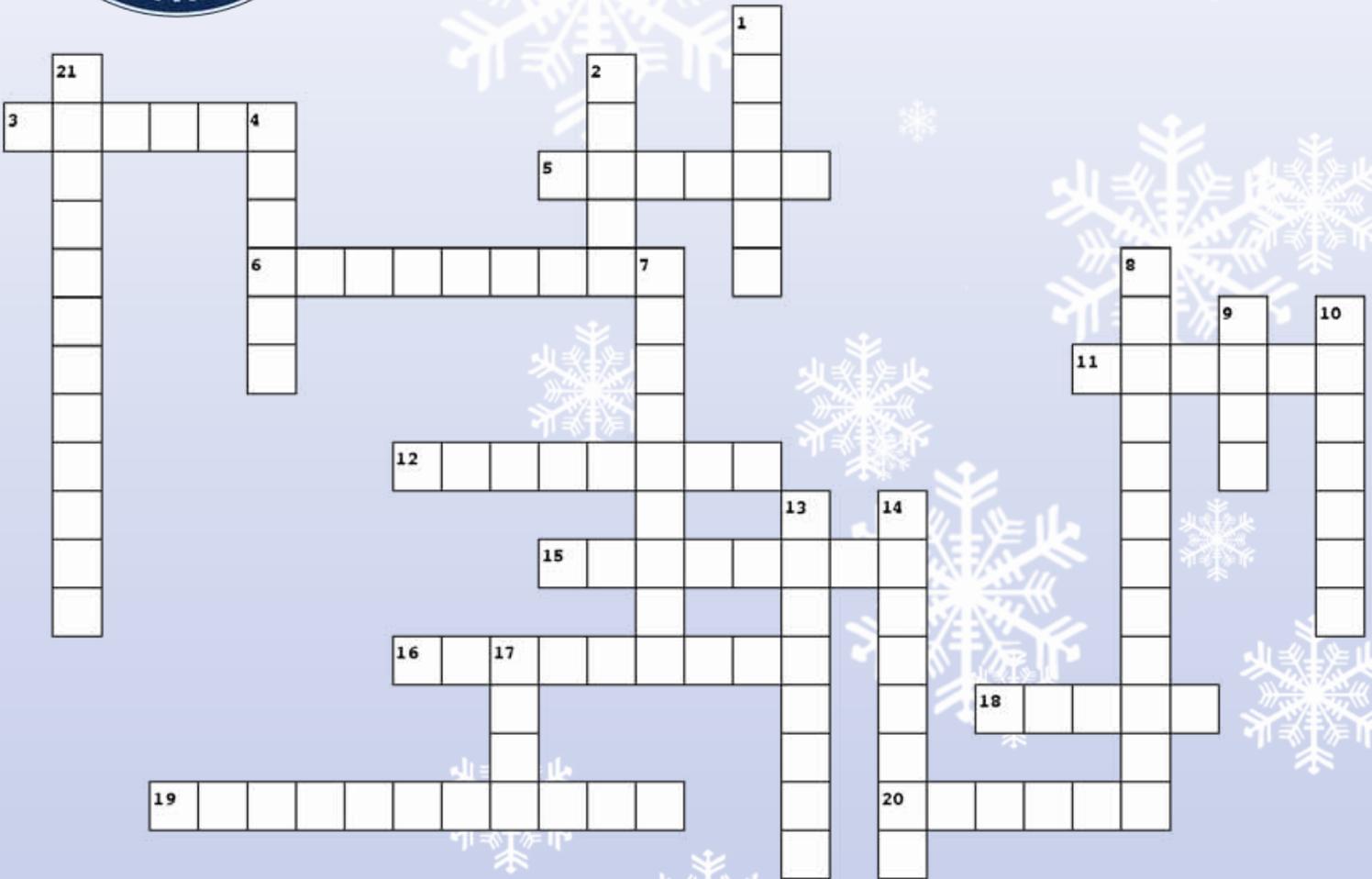
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Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle *Happy Holidays...*



ACROSS

- 3. Popular song: _____ bells
- 5. _____ the snowman
- 6. Santa's home
- 11. Who stole Christmas?
- 12. Gift
- 15. Rudolph and his friends
- 16. Kiss under it
- 18. Green little helpers
- 19. Cookie
- 20. 2019 Christmas Movie

DOWN

- 1. A _____ wonderland
- 2. Joyful song about Christmas
- 4. A Christmas drink made from eggs, spices, and cream
- 7. Christmas shopping is _____
- 8. Day before Christmas
- 9. As white as _____
- 10. Santa's entry
- 13. Month of Christmas
- 14. Christmas bulbs
- 17. Top of the Christmas trees
- 21. The most festive car club

Puzzle answers can be found on the following page.

THE NEW eACTROS IS DESIGNED TO CARRY UP TO 44 TONS & WILL BE PRODUCED IN WÖRTH AM RHEIN, GERMANY.



The eActros 600

Mercedes-Benz Reveals New Electric Semi Truck

by Camille Dodson, reporter for the automotive industry



At a world premiere to an international audience at the Break Autohof Hamburg Nordheide event in Egestorf, Germany, Mercedes-Benz® Trucks revealed its first battery-electric long-haul semi truck, the Mercedes-Benz eActros 600. Designed for long distance hauling, the eActros 600 has a battery capacity of 600-kilowatt hours, an amount that gives the truck a range of 500 kilometers, or 310 miles, without charge. With intermediate charging in line with legally prescribed driver breaks, the eActros 600 will be able to travel at least 1000 kilometers, or 620 miles, in a single day.

The truck is designed to be able to carry a gross combination weight of 44 tons, or 88,000 pounds. The start of series production is planned for the end of 2024, though sales will start this year. A fleet of about 50 prototype vehicles is currently being built, several of which will then be put into practical testing with customers as a part of the next step.

As Mercedes-Benz's first battery-electric semi truck, much of the design for the eActros 600 is dedicated to lowering CO2 emissions and increasing sustainability. With the current European energy mix, the eActros 600 will achieve CO2 emission savings of at least 40% compared to a similar diesel Actros. It has become increasingly important for customers of transport companies, especially in Europe, to monitor and reduce their CO2 footprint. While the switch to electric semi trucks over their diesel counterparts is expensive, the investment in an electric vehicle is both more ecologically sustain-

able and pays for itself quickly. Electricity prices at megawatt charging stations cost significantly less than gas, and customers would be able to make money back on every driven mile, allowing them to operate incredibly economically.

The aesthetic design of the truck was considered with aerodynamics in mind as well. Our contact at the Mercedes-Benz Group Headquarters located in Stuttgart, Germany, revealed that reducing air resistance to influence energy consumption was a pressing design concern. As such, the large, completely rounded front hood, optimized bumper, underbody paneling, improved driver access, and extended sail-like end flaps were all design choices made to increase the aerodynamics and reduce the vehicle's energy consumption. For driver comfort, the cab of the truck is equipped with alu-

(Continued on Page 13)

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

- 3. Jingle
- 5. Frosty
- 6. North Pole
- 11. Grinch
- 12. Presents
- 15. Reindeer
- 16. Mistletoe

Down

- 1. Winter
- 2. Carol
- 4. Egg nog
- 18. Elves
- 19. Gingerbread
- 20. Noelle

- 7. Expensive
- 8. Christmas Eve
- 9. Snow
- 10. Chimney
- 13. December
- 14. Ornament
- 17. Star
- 21. Sierra Nevada



The eActros 600

(Continued from Page 12)

minimum step plates, a new headlamp concept with matrix LED headlamps, and a LED light strip.

As an electronic vehicle, the eActros 600 is very quiet on the road. To ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists who may be on the road but could have difficulty hearing the ve-



hicle, the eActros 600 will be equipped with an Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System, which will make a varied sound depending on the vehicle's speed and acceleration.

The truck will come with a total of six installed sensors that will improve hazard and multiple-lane monitoring. The emergency brake system will be able to react to moving people, cyclists, and stationary pedestrians, whether they are in the same lane, crossing, or oncoming using the sensors. The eActros will also be able to alert the driver visually and acoustically to any hazards or vulnerable road users that are directly ahead of them with the Frontguard Assist system.

The eActros 600 will be produced at the largest truck assembly plant for Mercedes-Benz Trucks in Wörth am Rhein. The Wörth location, as well as three other locations in Germany, will be undergoing a transformation from diesel technology to focus more on emission-free transport. The eActros 600 will be just another step forward in Mercedes-Benz's mission to make more sustainable and economical vehicles going forward.



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Sweet Treat for a Sweet Tradition

Gingerbread Houses & Why We Make Them at Christmas

by Camille Dodson, reporter for the automotive industry

We all drive German vehicles, but did you know that some of our most important Christmas traditions originate in Germany? When making a list of sweet Christmas treats, gingerbread cookies and gingerbread houses are one of the first that will always come to mind. Though gingerbread has been a holiday tradition for a long time, it took quite the route to get to the amount of popularity as a Christmas staple food that it has today.

The long history of gingerbread has to start with ginger root, first cultivated in ancient China. The root spread to Europe along the Silk Road for its use as both a spice and its medicinal properties. It became popular in the Middle Ages in Europe as a spice due to its ability to help disguise the flavor of preserved meats.

Alongside ginger root, the first recipes for gingerbread began to surface. While China had its own recipes well developed by the 10th century, Europeans had their own version of gingerbread by the Middle Ages. Hard gingerbread cookies became popular at festivals in England, France, Holland, and Germany. Queen Elizabeth I is credited with popularizing the idea of decorating and shaping the cookies to look like animals or people after she had some made to resemble dignitaries who were visiting her court.

The tradition of making gingerbread houses was a much later development, believed to have been started in the early 1800s in Germany. The popularity of making gingerbread houses rose with the story of Hansel and Gretel by the Brothers Grimm, in which the main characters end up finding a house entirely made of sweets. It is unclear if

the story is what created gingerbread houses as a widespread concept or if gingerbread houses were what inspired the setting of the story. Inspired by the story, German bakers began to craft small, decorated houses from *lebkuchen*, a kind of German spiced honey biscuit.

Gingerbread houses became a staple of the Christmas tradition as people began to decorate their sugary homes in a more festive fashion. With sugary frosting a necessity to sweeten up the somewhat spicy bread, adding frosting snow and gold foil would give the gingerbread houses a look befitting of the holidays. Additionally, gingerbread was no longer a staple snack only at festivals, but instead became a common treat at German Christmas markets. December markets in Europe began to feature more winter themed ginger-

(Continued on Page 15)

CHILDREN DECORATING A GINGERBREAD HOUSE IN GERMANY.



Sweet Treat for a Sweet Tradition

(Continued from Page 14)

bread figures and homes, thus helping trigger the Christmas gingerbread tradition we all know and love.

Today, gingerbread houses are a given tradition associated with the holiday season. Even if gingerbread cookies are not typically the favorite snack

for any family, there is still a lot of fun to be had with building and decorating a gingerbread house as a family activity.

Some people even take it to the extreme, with the record holding gingerbread house being a nearly 40,000

cubic foot gingerbread house at the Traditions Golf Club in Bryan, Texas. For most people, however, it would probably be for the best to stick with a simple, much smaller gingerbread house and a nice glass of eggnog to enjoy the holiday spirit. 

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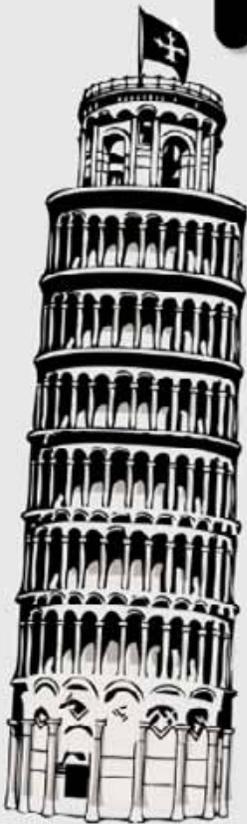
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Eggnog

A Traditional Drink for the Holidays

from the kitchen of Marcus Dodson, Sierra Nevada Section Club Newsletter Editor



eggnog is a traditional holiday drink, and this recipe is delicious! Christy and I love making this, and it pairs well with rugelach holiday cookies (see recipe in December 2022 issue). It took us many years of searching and adjusting recipes to get this just right, but it tastes amazing and is definitely worth it. Eggnog dates back to medieval times but became very popular 300 years ago in Colonial America. People on the East Coast found that they didn't get many eggs during the

colder months because chickens lay fewer eggs when there is less sunlight. They would gather their eggs before the harsh winter months and make eggnog. The alcohol in the nog would preserve the egg mixture so that they would have eggs in their diet during the cold time of the year. It is believed that this is why we now associate this drink with the Christmas season.

Ingredients:

- 🕒 8 large eggs
- 🕒 1 cup sugar
- 🕒 2 cups white rum
- 🕒 3-1/2 cups milk
- 🕒 2 cups whiskey
- 🕒 2-1/2 cups heavy whippingcream

Eggnog Directions:

- ① Separate eggs into yolks and whites in separate bowls. I use a medium bowl for the egg yolks and a large bowl for the egg whites, as you will be mixing many ingredients into the egg whites later.
- ② Beat the egg yolks with 1/2 cup of sugar until the yolks are creamy and lighten in color.
- ③ Beat the egg whites until stiff, then mix in the other 1/2 cup of sugar into the egg whites.
- ④ Fold the egg yolks into the egg whites and mix thoroughly.
- ⑤ Stir in the rum slowly, stir in the milk slowly, stir in the whiskey slowly, then stir in the cream.
- ⑥ Carefully, with a funnel, pour the mixture into a storage container. I use a plastic gallon milk jug that has been emptied and washed for storing the eggnog.
- ⑦ Refrigerate and serve. Garnish with nutmeg.

** Many people worry about using raw eggs. Not to worry as the rum and whiskey does the trick. Back in 2009, Rockefeller University microbiologists did an eggnog test. They added salmonella to eggnog kept in a fridge for long periods of time. They found that the large percentage of alcohol killed the bacteria and made it completely sterile. I have made this eggnog many times and have never had any problems. Also, note that this eggnog is a potent alcoholic beverage, please drink responsibly. Lastly, if someone tells you to add vanilla, cinnamon, or some other spice to your eggnog, don't do it! This traditional drink doesn't need it and tastes great all on its own. There is an old recipe from first President George Washington, that he used to serve to his guests. It called for alcohol, eggs, milk, sugar, cream, and NOTHING else.*



ITEMS of INTEREST

EVENTS

Video of the Month

The Goose that Got Away...

With the holidays right around the corner and meal prepping for family events on the mind, what better way to get into the festive mood than by watching a wholesome ad from Mercedes.



The ad starts with an enterprising goose escaping its cage as someone starts preparing for a holiday dinner featuring the goose as the main course. As the goose waddles out of the door, it stops to pick up a set of keys to a Mercedes-Benz. Scan the QR code with your smart phone, or click on the link below to see what happens to this poor little goose in this Mercedes-Benz Christmas ad. I wonder if the goose can figure out how to drive a car with its webbed feet.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II1sV5LvMaI>

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.

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

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.

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

May 7, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Sharon Heck & Roger Collins, Zozo's, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Sharon Heck at hikintahoe@aol.com or (775) 287-5789.

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.

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IN CLOSING

Family Photos

Holiday Pictures are Often Awkward or Funny

by Marcus Dodson, Sierra Nevada Section Club 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've all taken family photos during the holiday season. Even with a professional photographer they aren't always great. In fact, quite often those photos turn out a bit awkward or even downright funny. Here are a couple of good ones that stand out.

