

# The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • February 2024



Newsletter Editor

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**FIRST TUESDAY DINNER**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)**



Photos courtesy of Vencil Wells.

## Eccellente

### *Club Meets for Italian Dinner in Sparks, Nevada*

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



To kick off the New Year, Gail and Vencil Wells hosted the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America at Pietro's Famiglia Ristorante Italiano in Sparks. On this particular night, 23 members braved the snow to enjoy comforting Italian food. Both old and new faces gathered in the authentic Italian restaurant, where the group was given a selection of booths and tables in the large dining room.

While the threat of the oncoming snow that the group experienced later that night led to several cancellations, many of the club's members still trekked out to Victorian Square in Sparks to enjoy the evening. Despite the weather concerns, it ended up being an enjoyable night and a great opportunity to relax and catch up with everyone for the start of the year.

Two dedicated servers took care of the club on this Wednesday evening,

(Continued on Page 4)

# PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



## Be My Valentine

### *Lots of Great Events on the Horizon*

**L**ast month, the club started off the year by meeting at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks for a wonderful Italian dinner. Everyone who attended had a great time, enjoying the local food and the opportunity to catch up with fellow club members after the holidays. The cozy atmosphere of the restaurant was a great way to get out of the snowy weather that had picked up that afternoon, so thank you to everyone who braved the weather to attend.

The club has several fun activities on the horizon, including a handful of winter and springtime dinner events. Next week, on February 6, Vence and I are hosting a romantic First Tuesday Dinner at Chi in the Peppermill in Reno. There's still time to RSVP, so reach out to me if you'd like to reserve a spot at the table. We have been to Chi several times as a club in the past and both the food and the service is always incredi-

ble. I am definitely looking forward to seeing you all there next week.

The Board of Directors recently held our first meeting of 2024, and we have lots of fun ideas in the pipeline. We are doing our best to provide unique, fun events for all of you, and we are open to your suggestions. Volunteering to host dinners or other special events is a great way to add variety to the club and provide opportunities for new activities. Please reach out to me if you have an idea for a dinner or a drive, or if you'd like to host an event. There are plenty of opportunities in 2024 to host a daytime or nighttime gathering. As always, stay up to date on club events and news by following us on Facebook @SierraNevadaMBCA. Happy Valentine's Day to all of my friends.

*Gail V. Wells*

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.





# CHI

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## Eccellente

(Continued from Page 1)


which ensured that the drinks were flowing and the dishes came out hot. Pietro's is known for its classic Italian fare, including ravioli, linguini, fettuccine, lasagna, penne, manicotti, risotto, chicken piccata, chicken parmigiana, scampi, and steak. The stand out dishes that night were Pietro's crab stuffed cannelloni and the cioppino fish stew. Cocktails and wine, most notably Chi-anti, were flowing during dinner. A few guests indulged in dessert, which included tiramisu, gelato, and cheesecake. Everyone left the dinner happy and excited to begin another wonderful year with the club.

Preceding the dinner was the quarterly Board of Directors meeting. The



upcoming year looks exciting, with fun-filled events on the calendar and a robust treasury. The Board of Directors spent their time organizing and planning many of the engaging events the club has to look forward to in 2024. For more information on how to get involved in the club, reach out to Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com).

The next First Tuesday Dinner will be

February 6 at Chi in Reno, hosted by Gail and Vencil Wells. To RSVP, please contact Gail at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701. Events 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. Stay up to date on events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook. 





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THE NEW AMG CLE 53 WILL  
BE AVAILABLE LATER IN 2024.

# The New CLE 53

## AMG Performance in a Coupe Chassis

by Camille Dodson, reporter for the automotive industry

If the Mercedes-Benz® AMG CLE nameplate isn't ringing a bell for you, that's because it's a fairly new model. Shedding the former E-Class coupe and C-Class coupe, Mercedes-Benz decided to merge the

two models into one earlier this year. Now known as the CLE coupe, the streamlined design pairs C-Class looks with E-Class proportions. Mercedes-AMG is sharpening its product portfolio and redefining the entry performance coupe segment with the new

AMG CLE 53 Coupe.

Based on the already revealed CLE coupe chassis, the AMG version is naturally more about what's under the hood than its exterior presence. However, the body of the 2024 Mercedes-AMG CLE 53 coupe is widened compared to its non-AMG siblings. The sporty two-door model combines the best of two worlds, the agility and sportiness of the AMG C-Class with the interior space and elegance of the AMG E-Class.

The interior welcomes passengers with unique equipment, exclusive materials and the latest generation MBUX infotainment system. In each door, a strip of light runs along the contour lines of the armrest and the beltline to the rear seats. Another highlight is the sporty integral seats designed to pro-

(Continued on Page 9)







**FEB II**  
**3:00**

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**THE NEW AMG CLE 53  
FEATURES ROBUST AMG ACCENTS  
& REFINED STYLING.**



## The New CLE 53

(Continued from Page 6)

vide excellent lateral support. Customers can also choose from several optional leather upholsteries, along with Nappa leather upholstery featuring an embossed AMG crest in the front headrests.

The new CLE 53 uses a comprehensively upgraded, AMG-enhanced M256M 3.0-liter inline six-cylinder turbocharged engine. The improved electric auxiliary compressor can now be operated almost continuously over a

longer period of time to provide higher torque at a wider range of engine speeds and enhance overall responsiveness of the engine. In addition, this allows for a larger exhaust gas tur-

(Continued on Page 10)

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# The New CLE 53

(Continued from Page 9)


bocharger to be fitted for higher peak performance.

The AMG-enhanced engine is coupled with an AMG SPEEDSHIFT® TCT 9G transmission, which impresses with short shift times, quick response, double-declutching function, and multiple downshifts. Transmission calibration is tailored for a variety of driving situations, such as dynamic acceleration or efficiency, depending on the drive program selected.

Developed in Affalterbach, the CLE 53 Coupe is equipped with AMG RIDE CONTROL suspension designed for handling agility, more neutral cornering, and greater traction. The steel spring suspension features particularly sporty damper tuning and adaptive adjustable damping, combining excellent driving dynamics with a high level of ride comfort. The steering layout also contributes to the



increase in dynamics and comfort. The CLE 53 Coupe has three-stage AMG parameter steering that adapts to the selected AMG DYNAMIC SELECT drive program. When maneuvering at low speeds and parking, little steering effort is required. Steering power assistance decreases at higher speeds.

The car is still an AMG and will be well-tuned for dynamic driving. Mercedes-AMG has yet to say just how much the 2024 CLE 53 coupe will cost, and it didn't set a delivery timeline either. Regardless of its likely high price tag, it's clear that AMG has been mindful of how it incorporates the CLE nameplate. 

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# TACO TUESDAY



## MARCH TUESDAY DINNER at MiCasa Too

March 5, 2024

5:30 P.M.

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IN RENO

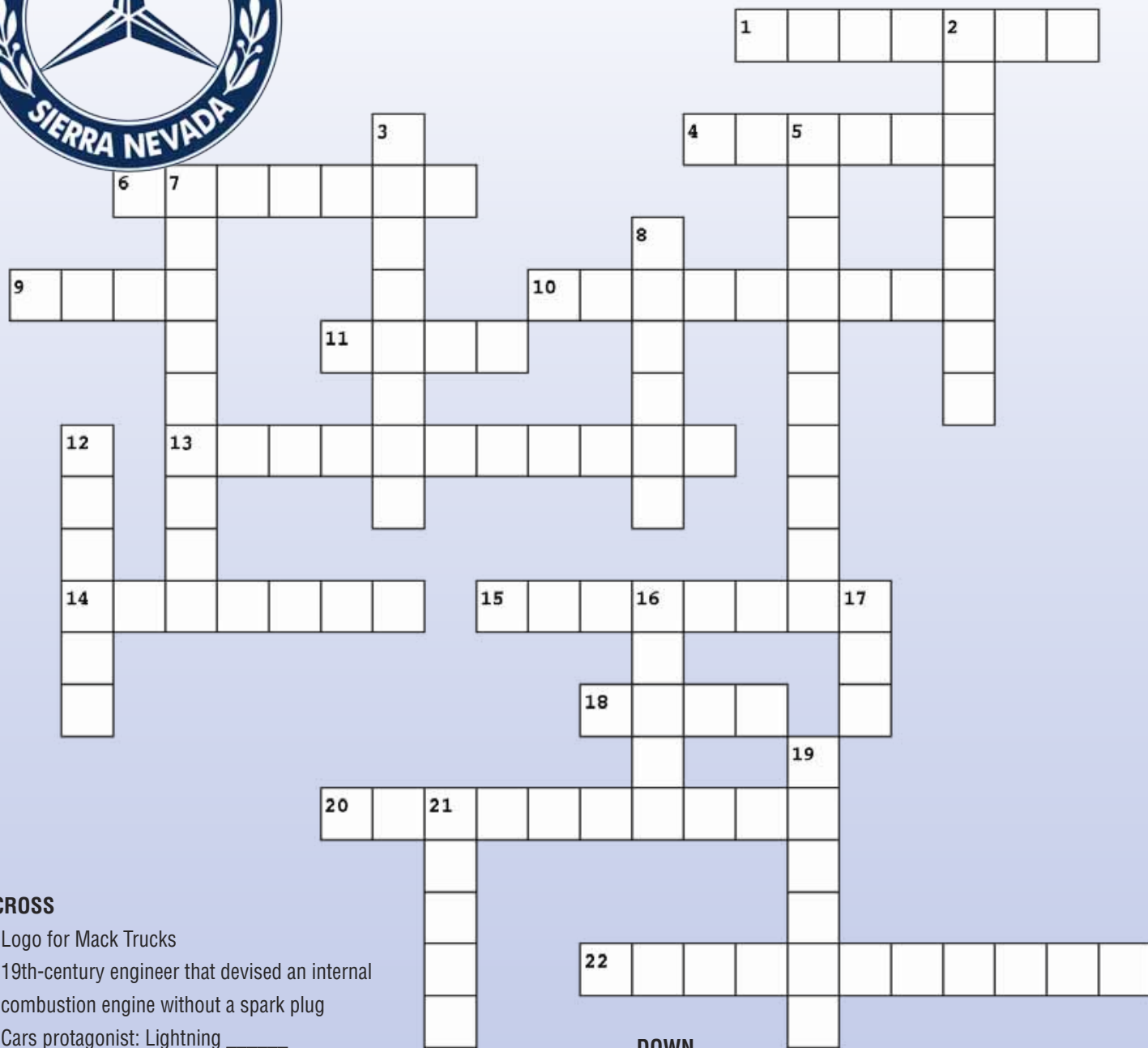
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## Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Logo for Mack Trucks
4. 19th-century engineer that devised an internal combustion engine without a spark plug
6. Cars protagonist: Lightning \_\_\_\_\_
9. Rings in the Audi logo
10. First NASCAR race was held on this speedway
11. Founder/motor company that revolutionized factory production
13. Convertible from Thelma & Louise
14. Spent his day off driving a 1961 Ferrari 250 GT SWB California Spyder
15. The Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ was the first car launched into space
18. Mr. Bean's car
20. This liquid substance, invented in 1926, is used in a car's cooling system
22. Luxury car company with a bull in the logo

### DOWN

2. Back to the Future car
3. Bandit in Smokey and the Bandit
5. It's a car. It's a hearse. It's an \_\_\_\_\_.
7. King's killer car
8. Transformers features a chevrolet \_\_\_\_\_ named Bumblebee
12. The Love Bug
16. 2011 film where Ryan Gosling is an unnamed Hollywood stunt driver who moonlights as a getaway driver
17. The original color for all Ferrari models
19. This color strip on the rear of a racecar signifies a rookie driver
21. The world's largest automotive company

*Puzzle answers can be  
found on the following page.*





# Ceramic Coatings

## Protecting Your Prized Possession

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



undeniably, protecting the appearance of your car is one of the most important aspects of owning a vehicle. Whether you're investing in every detail being clean and tidy, or more concerned with overall wear and tear, every car owner wants the best for their vehicle. For many luxury car owners, including Mercedes®-Benz enthusiasts, a ceramic coating is a worthwhile investment. Recently, one of our members mentioned that they had this done, and they believed it made their three-year-old car's paint look brighter and shinier.

On every car, there is a primer, a base coat of paint, and a clear coat that protects the paint from external elements. A ceramic coating is an option that can be applied on top of the clear coat to add enhanced protection. This technology is primarily formulated of silicon dioxide, although others can include titanium dioxide, which increases the coat's protective qualities and longevity. When evaluating and comparing

different ceramic coatings brands, the main difference is going to be the amount of silicon dioxide that is in the formula.

What makes this technology work so well is the existence of tiny particles that form a very thin and transparent layer

(Continued on Page 14)

### Crossword Puzzle Answers

#### Across

- 1. Bulldog
- 4. Diesel
- 6. McQueen
- 9. Four
- 10. Charlotte
- 11. Ford
- 13. Thunderbird

- 14. Bueller
- 15. Roadster
- 18. Mini
- 20. Antifreeze
- 22. Lamborghini

#### Down

- 2. DeLorean
- 3. Reynolds

- 5. Ectomobile
- 7. Christine
- 8. Camaro
- 12. Herbie
- 16. Drive
- 17. Red
- 19. Yellow
- 21. Toyota



A CERAMIC COATING CREATES A HYDROPHOBIC LAYER THAT REPELS WATER, MEANING MINERAL DEPOSITS & DIRT DO NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HURT THE SURFACE OF THE PAINT.



## Ceramic Coatings

(Continued from Page 13)

that is undetectable to the naked eye. It seals to your car's paint and is resistant to harmful UV rays, scratches, chemicals, and heat. Since this nanotechnology seals and attaches to the paint, it will not break down over a short period of time.

There are other less-expensive options, including waxes and sealants. Wax is the most affordable option and can be purchased in a spray or paste form. For decades, waxes have been used to keep cars looking shiny and new. When it comes to protecting the car, however, a wax isn't going to do that much. Many of us wax our cars, because that is what we were taught to do. Even if a wax is applied several times a year, environmental forces and soap can break it down pretty quickly. A sealant is a silica-based polymer that is applied by hand and cures to form a protective layer. This synthetic option can last for years, yet still is outmatched by a ceramic coating.

Essentially acting as a hard shell on the vehicle, a ceramic coating can prevent water stains, road grime, and other sub-

stances from touching and harming the paint. A quick rinse of water makes every foreign object, including bird poop, slide easily off. The ceramic coating creates a hydrophobic layer that repels water, meaning mineral deposits and dirt

(Continued on Page 15)

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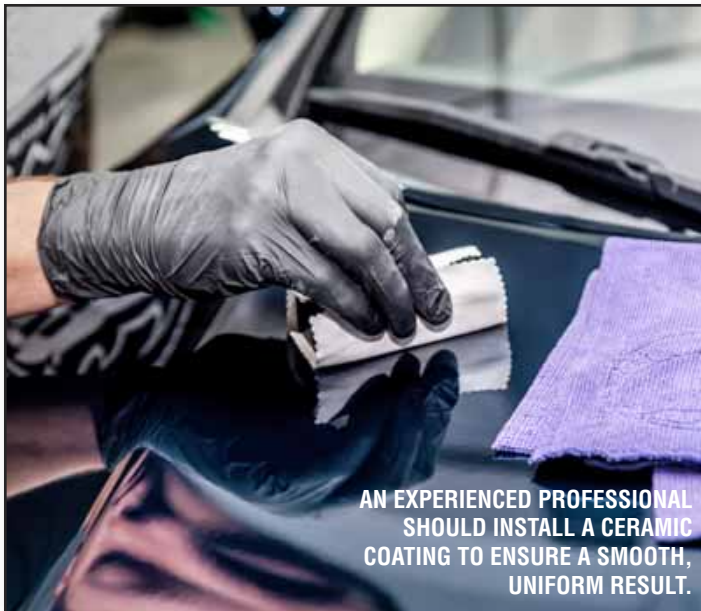
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UNIFORM RESULT.

## Ceramic Coatings

(Continued from Page 14)

do not have an opportunity to hurt the surface of the car's paint.

For people who live in areas that get lots of ice and snow, like the Sierra Nevada region, a ceramic coating can do wonders. Ice and snow will not stick to the surface of your car because of the hydrophobic properties of the coating. UV rays cause paint to oxidize, so vehicle owners in sunny climates are susceptible to losing the luster on their car. A ceramic coating can prevent paint from fading, dulling, and deteriorating.

Unlike wax, a ceramic coating is not a technology that can be removed and reapplied. Instead, it adheres to and bonds with the car's paint, similar to staining a piece of wood. Because of this permanence, an experienced professional should install a ceramic coating to ensure a smooth, uniform result. If for some reason a mistake is made, such as a bubble or piece of trapped dirt, the entire area of the car must be sanded and the coating reapplied. Because of this level of detail required, an expert might charge a hefty installation fee for a seemingly inexpensive product. While a ceramic coating kit may run a few hundred dollars, an installer can charge well over \$1,000 to lay it on a vehicle.

A ceramic coating is a great option for someone wishing to keep their car shiny and new, but it won't protect against everything. Shopping carts will still dent, car doors will still scratch, and rogue rocks will still chip. While it's not an impenetrable layer, it is still a worthwhile investment. Additionally, a ceramic coating may not require reapplications like a wax coating will, but it does require frequent brush-free car washes. An occasional treatment spray, which can be done at home, can also help keep the coating looking fresh and shiny. A good ceramic coating that is installed professionally can last several years.



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**9:00 A.M.**  
**Third Sunday of Each Month**  
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**first gathering is April 21**



An informal gathering where we can chat about cars and whatever else comes up. If the weather is good, we can bring our coffees and pastries out into the parking lot and chat about our cars. Bring your Mercedes, or any other interesting car.



No RSVP Needed

first gathering  
April 21, 2024





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**SUNDAY  
MARCH 24TH  
AT 2:00PM**

This event is being organized & hosted by Linda & Rick Iknoian

Minden Mill Distilling is located at 1601 Water St. in Minden. The tour & tasting is \$30 & will be followed by dinner at 4:30 at Great Basin Brewing located at 302 N Carson St. We will order off the menu with separate checks.

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# MEETING MINUTES

## Sierra Nevada MBCA

### Board of Directors Meeting

Location: The Blind Onion, Sparks, NV

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Gail Wells, President, called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Directors present were: Gail Wells, President; Christy Dodson, Secretary; Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor; Patti Lamski, Director at Large; and Vencil Wells, Vice President.

#### CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Christy Dodson confirmed there was a quorum of directors present.

#### MINUTES:

Christy Dodson made a motion to approve the previous minutes as printed in the Newsletter. Patti Lamski seconded the motion.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Christy Dodson presented the Treasurer's Report that was submitted by LaVern Lucovich. The Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America has \$4147.31 in its bank account as of January 1, 2024. Expenditures for the last quarter were \$6362.58 and income was \$6390.00.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Marcus Dodson read the Membership Report that was submitted by Marc Dodson, Membership Chair. As of January 2024, the club has 73 members. Many members have not renewed their membership. Marc is in the process of contacting them. The club is creating new MBCA membership brochures that will be distributed at the dealership.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- ⚡ Marcus Dodson presented the advertisers for 2024.
- ⚡ ArrowCreek has been booked as the venue for the 2024 holiday Party on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The club will need to pay a deposit of \$1500.00 to hold the room.

#### SECTION EVENTS:

- ⚡ Gail and Vencil Wells will host a First Tuesday Dinner on February 6 at Chi in Reno.
- ⚡ Sue and Marc Dodson will host a Superbowl Party on February 11 at their home in Reno.
- ⚡ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a First Tuesday Dinner on March 5 at Mi Casa Too in Reno.
- ⚡ Linda and Rick Iknoian will host a Tour on March 24 at the Minden Mill Distillery in Minden, followed by dinner.
- ⚡ Lordita and Erik Nowacki will host a First Tuesday Dinner on April 2 at the Napa Sonoma Market in Reno.
- ⚡ Patti and Gene Lamski will host a Tour on April 27 at the Sparks Train Museum, followed by lunch.
- ⚡ Sharon Heck and Roger Collins will host a First Tuesday Dinner on May 7 at Zozo's in Reno.
- ⚡ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a Backyard Luau on July 20 at their home in Reno.
- ⚡ LaVern and Carlos Lucovich will host a picnic and play on August 17 at Bartley Ranch in Reno.
- ⚡ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host a Oktoberfest Party on October 5 at their home in Reno.
- ⚡ Christy and Marcus Dodson will host the 2024 Holiday Party on December 12 at ArrowCreek in Reno.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, April 26, at Christy and Marcus Dodson's home at 4:30 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Christy Dodson made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and Patti Lamski seconded it. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christy Dodson, Secretary*

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# ITEMS of INTEREST

## Video of the Month

### *Mercedes Spin Along the Las Vegas Strip*



Mercedes-Benz® recently showed off their Mercedes EQG off-roading vehicle at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES)® 2024, held at the Venetian in Las Vegas, Nevada. The EQG comes equipped with a new feature that allows the cars to spin on a perfect 360 degrees. In a previous issue of the *Silver Star*, we covered a similar video where the EQG spun in the sand. This time, the spins

seem much smoother, featured on the Las Vegas strip as four of the cars turn in unison.

The EQG has not been given a proper debut yet, so we have no way of knowing exactly when the car will be available for purchase, though the reveal at the CES has people speculating that it will be ready sometime in 2025. Until then, it should be interesting to see what places the EQG spins into next. To watch the video, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V64pSunn84w>



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# EVENTS

February 6, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Chi at the Peppermill, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

February 11, 2024: Superbowl Party, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080.

March 3, 2024: San Francisco Bay Area MBCA, First Sunday Drive from Concord to the Grand Island Hotel, hosted by Doug Storkovich. To RSVP, 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 & 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, hosted by Lordita & Erik Nowacki, Mario's Portofino, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Erik Nowacki at enowacki@yahoo.com or (619) 300-4359.

April 18, 2024: Museum & Lunch Event hosted by Patti & Gene Lamski, Sparks Train Museum & Great Basin Restaurant, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Patti Lamski at topat83@aol.com or (775) 224-1794.

April 21, 2024: Join us every third Sunday of the month for Cars & Carbs hosted by Erik Nowacki, Panera Bread on South Virginia, Reno. For more information, contact Erik Nowacki at enowacki@yahoo.com or (619) 300-4359.

May 7, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Roger Collins & Sharon Heck, Zozo's, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Sharon Heck at hikintahoe@aol.com or (775) 997-4067.

May 19, 2024: Join us every third Sunday of the month for Cars & Carbs hosted by Erik Nowacki, Panera Bread on South Virginia, Reno. For more information, contact Erik Nowacki at enowacki@yahoo.com or (619) 300-4359.

June 4, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Jim & Bev Petruk, Restaurant Not Yet Announced. To RSVP contact Jim Petruk at petrucksboat@gmail.com or (530) 906-1865.



# IN CLOSING

## The Friendly Skies

### Aircraft Paint Jobs can Vary Widely

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.)

**F**rom utilitarian to artistic and whimsical, aircraft paint jobs can differ widely. Some of these are obviously temporary to assist promoting a commercial venture, while others are painted to display a sense of humor. Here a few examples of commercial, military, and private aircraft art that was over-the-top.

