

The SILVER STAR



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



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HAWAIIAN PARTY

JULY 20, 2024

(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



Grilliant Eats

Club Meats up for Award-Winning Local Barbecue

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



For an amazing start to June, the Sierra Nevada Section held their First Tuesday Dinner at BJ's Nevada Barbecue Company, hosted by Bev Pastorino and Jim Petruk. This is a restaurant that the club has been to in the past, though it has been a few years, and it was a massive hit with the club as well as an eagerly awaited return. The club had an incredible turnout of 32 people and the dinner was sold out.

BJ's is a well-known local barbecue joint located in Sparks, Nevada. Established in 1986, BJ's started as a small hole-in-the-wall barbecue spot with a

group of dedicated regulars who loyally kept the restaurant afloat. In 1991, the restaurant changed hands and expanded, quickly becoming a staple in the Reno/Sparks barbecue scene. In the years since then, BJ's has won eight different awards from the Best in the West Rib Cook-off, including the first place prize in 2022, as well as various other local awards and recognition from the National BBQ Association.

The Sierra Nevada Section was given a private room for the event with two dedicated servers, a full bar, and a bartender. The service was fantastic and the drinks were excellent, made with an

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Time for the Fireworks

Great Things Planned to Light up the Month



With July here our Sierra Nevada Section can finally take advantage of the heat and enjoy some of our best out-

door events of the year. Last month had given us some great opportunities for some driving events and meals, and going forward into this next month we have some incredible things planned for the remainder of the summer.

In June, we started off with an amazing evening at BJ's Barbecue in Sparks for our First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Bev Pastorino and Jim Petruk. BJ's provided excellent service and delicious food for our group, and we all had a great time being able to catch up with each other and relish in the summer barbecue. The dinner was such a great success that we actually had to turn some couples away because we did not have enough room for them, so please make sure to RSVP in advance for our events in the future.

Later in the month, Vence and I hosted a Poker Run and lunch event, where we drove between many of our local sponsors before going to lunch. It has been a

while since our club has hosted a Poker Run event and it went quite well, with everyone having fun playing the hands of poker at each of the locations we stopped at.

As always, to start off this month we have a First Tuesday Dinner planned, this time located at the Fox Brewpub in Reno, hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. This will be a great way to kick off the month, so please make sure to RSVP.

Later in July, we return to Christy and Marcus's home for their annual Sierra Nevada Section Luau party. This is always one of the most widely anticipated events of our year, and we look forward to seeing not only many of our members in attendance but also members from outside sections. Make sure to wear your best tropical clothing for an evening of wonderful Hawaiian food and drinks. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson by email at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com.

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.



Mercedes Club

Luan Party

July 20th

6:00 pm

Marcus & Christy's Backyard
1840 Wendy Way, Reno

Join us for a Hawaiian Outdoor Party...
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THE GROUP ENJOYED A LIVELY NIGHT & GREAT BBQ AT BJ'S.



Grilliant Eats

(Continued from Page 1)

attention to detail that was appreciated by our club members. Many club members spent the first part of the evening standing and socializing with the other members of the club and talked about their plans to make use of the good summer weather.

The stand out dishes for the night were the platters of ribs and brisket, both of which had been cooked to perfection and came with BJ's famous homemade barbecue sauce. Alongside dinner, Jim Petruk provided raffle tickets and some great prizes to keep the night fun and entertaining. The prizes included locally distilled alcohol, Mercedes® AMG swag, and high-end wine.



DRAWING NAMES FOR PRIZES.

Thank you again to Jim and Bev for providing all the prizes and hosting such an amazing dinner.

As the weather has gotten warmer,

we have gotten an incredible increase in turnout for our events, even our First Tuesday Dinners. Sold out events will become more common going forward, and many of the restaurants we go to as a club require us to give an exact number of attendees for our events. Multiple couples were turned away from the dinner at BJ's because they did not RSVP in time. If you are interested in any of our future events, please make sure to RSVP well in advance to save yourself a seat.

The next First Tuesday Dinner is July 2 at Fox Brewpub in Reno, and is hosted by Christy and Marcus Dodson. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.



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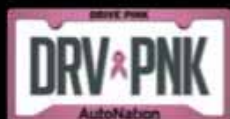


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SPY SHOTS OF THE UPDATED
S-CLASS TO BE RELEASED IN 2026.

Improvements to the Standard

Upgrades to the S-Class Expected for 2026

by Camille Dodson, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Mercedes-Benz® has been spotted testing prototypes for an updated S-Class expected on the market late next year as a 2026 model. The current generation of the Mercedes flagship sedan, the W223, debuted in 2020 as a 2021 model.

Mercedes tends to launch an update for its cars after four years, which traditionally marks the midway point in the life cycle for the automaker's vehicles, though this update is a year behind that schedule.

Mercedes offers the 2024 S-class sedan with either a 429-hp turbochar-

ged 3.0-liter inline-six-cylinder engine on the S500 or a 496-hp twin-turbo 4.0-liter V-8 on the S580. Both powertrains can be supplemented by a 48-volt hybrid system and pair with a nine-speed automatic transmission and 4Matic all-wheel drive. The S580e plug-in hybrid uses an inline-six and an electric motor to pump out 510 horsepower, all-wheel drive is standard here as well.

The S-class will be face lifted in 2026 and then likely again in 2029, three years before the end of production, giving it all of the fun perks of the 2024 model with some upgrades. The first update is not merely a nip-and-tuck job but a more significant surgery that touches the front and rear ends as well as the cockpit. Our contact at the Mercedes headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, expects new bumpers, mirrors, wheels, lights, and an illuminated new-look star pattern grille that can stage a variety of themes from festive to dynamic, some only when the vehicle is

(Continued on Page 8)





THE HEAVILY CAMOUFLAGED CAR SHOWS THAT THERE MIGHT BE CHANGES TO THE HEADLIGHTS & GRILL AREA.

Improvements to the Standard

(Continued from Page 7)

stationary, others also on the move.

The new interior should feature a re-designed dashboard with a revised multi-mode hyper screen and a large optional passenger display. You can still have that busy four-spoke steering

wheel, but some of the notoriously vague touch sliders will be replaced with capacitive buttons and more precise thumbwheels.

It points to the current S-Class having a longer shelf life, likely part of the

fallout of the automaker's recent decision to keep gas-powered cars on sale beyond 2030, the date by which the automaker previously thought it would be a fully electric brand.

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Improvements to the Standard


(Continued from Page 8)

Keeping current gas-powered models on sale for longer will buy Mercedes time to wait and see how the EV market develops, and potentially prepare previously unplanned successors for its

gas lineup. In the case of the GLE-Class and GLS-Class, our contact told us that Mercedes is even preparing a second update to extend the shelf life of those vehicles.



Judging by the camouflage gear on the S-Class prototypes, the update will consist of new lights at both ends and a larger grille. The taillights adopt three-pointed star motifs, similar to what's found in the latest E-Class, while the headlights have a similar design, in this case for the turn signals. An update for the EQS electric hatchback is due around the same time as the updated S-Class, and it will also introduce the star-shaped turn signals.

The new grille on the updated S-Class can clearly be seen extending lower into the front fascia. The rear section is heavily camouflaged, suggesting some changes are happening to the rear fascia as well. According to our photographer, the dashboard was also covered in areas, leading us to believe that there will be multiple changes to the dash as well. 

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*hosted by
Sue & Marc Dodson*

August First Tuesday *Dinner*

Join the Sierra Nevada MBCA for a fine dining experience at a restaurant specializing in steak, seafood, & pasta. We will have our own private dining room with a dedicated bar & server. Order off the menu with separate checks.

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

The Grill

at quail corners

*August 6th
5:30 P.M.*

The Grill
at Quail Corners

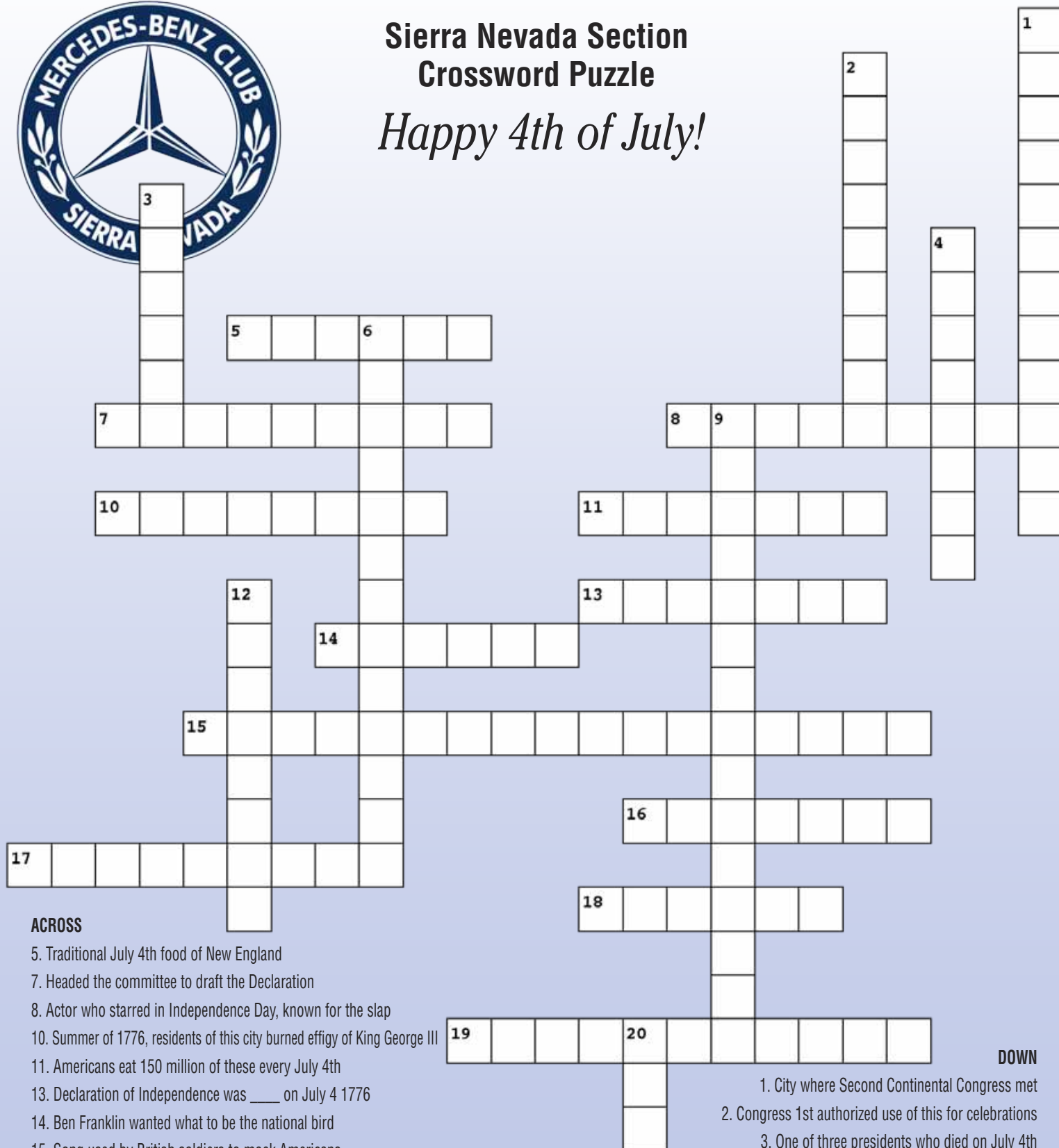
6520 S McCarran Blvd

in Reno



Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle

Happy 4th of July!



ACROSS

5. Traditional July 4th food of New England
7. Headed the committee to draft the Declaration
8. Actor who starred in Independence Day, known for the slap
10. Summer of 1776, residents of this city burned effigy of King George III
11. Americans eat 150 million of these every July 4th
13. Declaration of Independence was ____ on July 4 1776
14. Ben Franklin wanted what to be the national bird
15. Song used by British soldiers to mock Americans
16. Largest signature on Declaration of Independence
17. Sewed the 1st flag for the United States
18. Warned "the British are coming"
19. Tapped 13x every July 4th to commemorate the 13 colonies

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

DOWN

1. City where Second Continental Congress met
2. Congress 1st authorized use of this for celebrations
3. One of three presidents who died on July 4th
4. President born on 4th of July
6. 1st state to make July 4th a holiday
9. Another name for the fourth of July
12. First state to be admitted to the Union
20. On July 4 1778 Washington gave US soldiers a double ration of this.



ABOVE: THE GROUP OF POKER PLAYERS GATHERED AT ONE OF THE STOPS. RIGHT: DRAWING CARDS.



Need a Hand? Club Gets Together for Reno Poker Run

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



With overcast skies to provide a bit of shelter from June's hot sun, the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz® Club of America set out on their Poker Run and Lunch event. The rules of the event were as follows: at each stop, each member of the group draws a

card from a standard 52 card deck, and at the end of the stops (with five stops in total), the members with the five best poker hands would win their prizes. Our group drew our first cards and set out from Mercedes-Benz of Reno to our other stops on our list.

(Continued on Page 13)



Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

- 5. Salmon
- 7. Jefferson
- 8. Will Smith
- 10. Savannah
- 11. Hotdogs
- 13. Adopted
- 14. Turkey
- 15. Yankee Doodle

Dandy

- 16. Hancock
- 17. Betsy Ross
- 18. Revere
- 19. Liberty Bell

3. Monroe

- 4. Coolidge
- 6. Massachusetts
- 9. Independence Day
- 12. Delaware
- 20. Rum

Down

- 1. Philadelphia
- 2. Fireworks



Need a Hand?

(Continued from Page 12)

We stopped at each of our locations to visit our local newsletter sponsors who help support our club activities. The second stop on our list was Sierra Nevada Wheel Repair, where everyone drew their second cards before moving on. The next stop took the group to Auto Motion for their third cards, followed by Mike's Automotive for their fourth cards. Each sponsor was happy to see the group and gave brief explanations on their services that they provide to the community, with some sponsors even giving the group special coupons for their attendance. We finished the afternoon at Jalisco's Tacos for a lovely Mexican food lunch and drew our last cards there.

Thank you to Sue Dodson for helping with the drawing of cards throughout the day. After drawing their final cards, the results of who won were made clear. Jim Petruk took first place with a winning hand while Christy Dodson took second place and Patti Lamski took third. It was a lot of fun to

pass out the winners' prizes and chat with each other about what everyone had learned from each sponsor while eating some excellent Mexican food and margaritas.

(Continued on Page 15)



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Need a Hand?

(Continued from Page 13)

At Jalisco's, the group was seated altogether at a long table and were able to order off the menu with separate checks. Everyone was in high spirits from the poker game and chatted amiably while enjoying delicious authentic Mexican food. The carnitas and



JIM PETRUK TOOK FIRST PLACE & A CASH PRIZE FOR THE BEST HAND.

seafood dishes were particularly well received.

Thank you to Gail and Vencil Wells for putting on such a fun and engaging event. This was a great opportunity for the club to interact with its sponsors with a fun activity and delicious food to top it all off. Events happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested. For more information and to sign up to host a First Tuesday Dinner or an event, contact Gail Wells. Stay up to date on future club events by searching for @SierraNevadaMBCA on Facebook.



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ITEMS of INTEREST

EVENTS

Sierra Nevada MBCA Name Badges for Sale

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.

To Purchase a badge you have to call the national Mercedes-Benz Club of America office. Name badges are not on the website right now. To request your badges, call (719) 633-6427.

Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.

July 2, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Fox Brewpub, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

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.

July 21, 2024: Join us every third Sunday of the month for Cars, Coffee, & 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.

August 6, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, The Grill, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080.

August 17, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA Picnic & Play at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, hosted by LaVern & Carlos Lucovich, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact LaVern Lucovich at lipinski3541@gmail.com or (775) 882-4697.

August 18, 2024: Join us every third Sunday of the month for Cars, Coffee, & Carbs hosted by Erik Nowacki, Panera Bread on South Virginia, Reno. For more information, contact Erik Nowacki at enowacki@yahoo.com.

September 4, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Lordita & Erik Nowacki, Nashville Social Club, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Erik Nowacki at enowacki@yahoo.com or (619) 300-4359.

September 15, 2024: Join us every third Sunday of the month for Cars, Coffee, & Carbs hosted by Erik Nowacki, Panera Bread on South Virginia, Reno. For more information, contact Erik Nowacki at enowacki@yahoo.com.

September 25, 2024: SNMBCA Drive, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, The Iron Door, Graeagle, CA. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

Video of the Month

Fireworks... Fun for the Whole Family



It's the 4th of July! Fireworks can be fun, but not everyone should play with them.

See what happens to these folks hanging out in their front yard on the 4th. To watch the interesting video, click on the link below or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qhWscig6qw>



IN CLOSING

Independence Day

Patriotism Can be a Good Look for Some People

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.)

This month's *In Closing* is a special celebration chock-full of fireworks and picnic baskets because of the 4th of July. It's a time for fireworks, barbecue sauce, probably a lot of drunken squalor, and a ton of misdirected conversations about politics. These people, while funny looking, seem to embody the patriotic theme.

