

# The SILVER STAR



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB  
SIERRA NEVADA

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

## SERRA NEVADA



### Newsletter Editor

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Quail-ity Food .....	1
President's Message .....	2
Officers .....	2
September Dinner.....	3
The Iron Door Drive.....	5
Drive for Parkinson's .....	7
Next Generation V8.....	9
Oktoberfest .....	12
Crossword Puzzle.....	13
Bye Bye Birdie .....	14
Charging Up.....	17
Items of Interest .....	19
Events .....	19
In Closing.....	20

**FIRST TUESDAY DINNER**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**  
**(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)**



## Quail-ity Food

*Club Enjoys Fine Dining at The Grill at Quail Corners*

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

**T**he Grill at Quail Corners has an interesting and storied past as a well beloved staple for fine dining in Reno. In 1850, Eli Francovich migrated to California from Yugoslavia in search of gold, and eventually settled in Reno. In Nevada, Francovich established The Wine House, one of the state's first restaurants and bars, and also Nevada's first multi-story casino. The Wine House operated continuously for 87 years until the fourth generation of the Francovich family closed it to pursue other interests. The family has continued to produce its famous spirits, which include

Francovich Holiday Nog and the Francovich Manhattan, available online and in local grocery and liquor stores. In 1999, fifth-generation Sam Francovich opened The Grill at Quail Corners and returned the family to its restaurant and bar roots. Last year, Sam sold The Grill to one of his employees who had been a waitress and manager at The Grill for more than seven years, trusting her to continue the legacy of quality that his family had started.

In early August, the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz® Club of America kicked off the month with a return to this delicious restaurant for their

(Continued on Page 4)

# PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



## Fall Aboard!

### *Great Things Ahead for the Sierra Nevada Chapter*

**S**eptember is always an interesting time of year for our Sierra Nevada chapter, as the weather begins to cool and anticipation starts building for some of our exciting fall and winter events to come. While our summer events are always an incredible time to see many of our club members, by the end of August I'm looking forward to our cooler weather activities. Of course, we need to take advantage of the heat while we still have it.

August started off with a First Tuesday Dinner hosted by Sue and Marc Dodson at The Grill, in Reno, Nevada. Our club has been there in the past and it has remained a classy favorite location for many of our members to return to. Later in the month, the club met up for its annual Picnic and Play event, hosted by LaVern and Carlos Lucovich at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park in Reno. Thank you to everyone who brought food items for the club to share and enjoy.

September is stacked with some fun events as well. We will be starting with

our First Wednesday Dinner at the Nashville Social Club in Carson City, hosted by Lordita Canlas and Erik Nowacki. I am looking forward to trying the Southern comfort food and drinks that they have to offer. To RSVP, contact Lordita Canlas at (619) 518-9918 or [lordita88@yahoo.com](mailto:lordita88@yahoo.com). At the end of the month, Vence and I will be hosting a drive out to the Iron Door in Graeagle, California. If you are interested in joining us, reach out to me at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701.

Speaking of events, we have many opportunities in the remainder of 2024 and into 2025 to host a First Tuesday Dinner or a drive. If you have a favorite restaurant, share it with the group. If you know of a drive that is beautiful and dynamic, bring us along! Reach out to me at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) and I can help you get started with planning a fun club event.



Gail Wells  
President

## SIERRA NEVADA

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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.

# SEPTEMBER DINNER



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## Quail-ity Food

(Continued from Page 1)

First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Sue and Marc Dodson. The group of 32 club members was seated in a private dining area called the Vino Reno room with dedicated wait staff and a bartender. Seven large tables had been prepared for the Sierra Nevada section, which allowed for great conversation as the evening began.

Martinis, whiskeys, Francovich Manhattans, and lots of red and white wines were flowing from the private bar as the club discussed their future travel plans for the end of the summer, as well as the upcoming club events before fall ar-



rives. After being able to catch up with each other and enjoying their drinks, guests were able to order off of a limited menu with five delicious entrée choices. The stand out dishes for the night were the Petrale Sole and the Grilled Prawns, though all of the en-

trées were devoured with gusto. After dinner, the group members were able to choose between two desert options, a New York cheesecake with a berry reduction sauce or a triple layer chocolate cake. Both options were a delightful way to wrap up the evening.

The next First Wednesday Dinner is on September 4 at the Nashville Social Club in Carson City, hosted by Lordita Canlas and Erik Nowacki. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy some Southern comfort food and great drinks in a warm and upbeat atmosphere for everyone who is able to attend. To RSVP, contact Lordita Canlas at (619) 518-9918 or lordita88@yahoo.com. Club dinners happen monthly, and there are opportunities to host for anyone who is interested. For more information and to sign up to host a dinner or an event, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.





# THE IRON DOOR

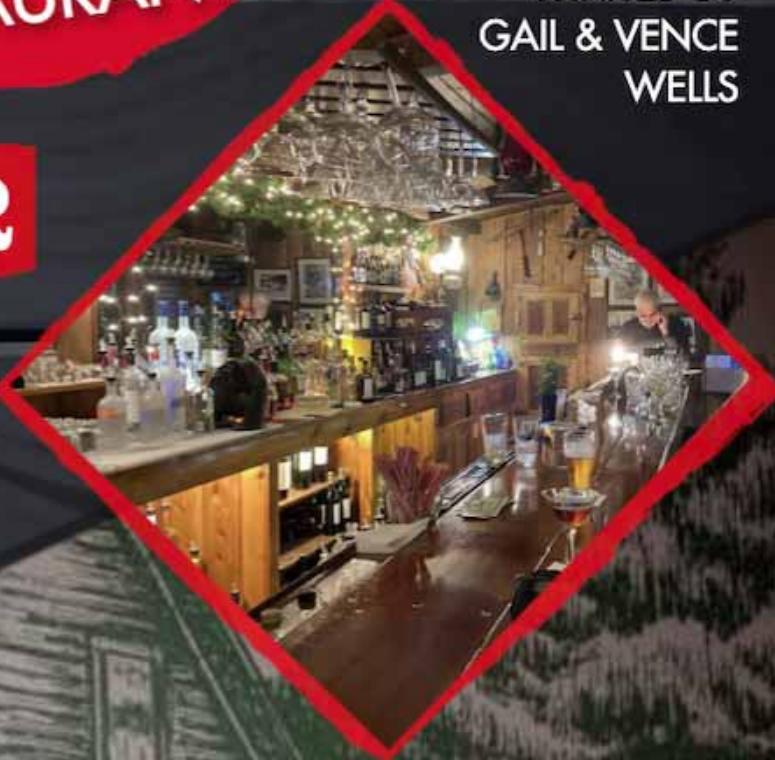
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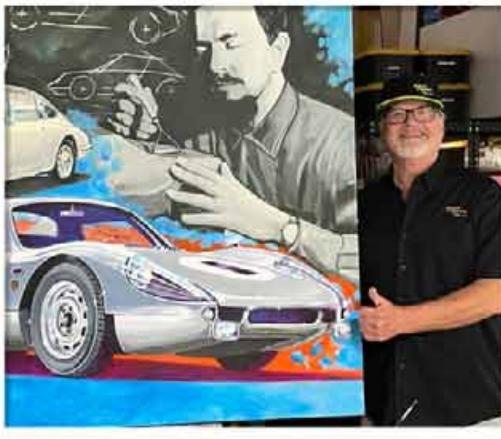
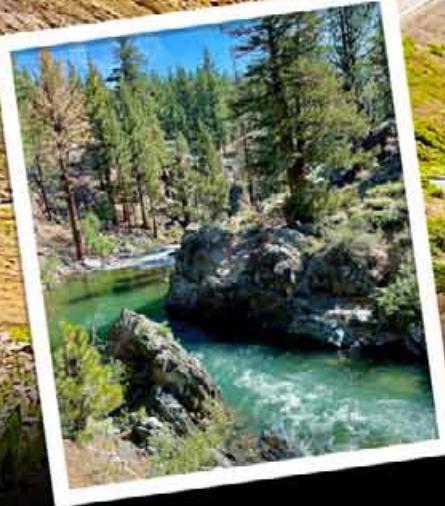
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THIS RALLY IS BEING PUT ON BY  
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FOR PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

# SIERRA NEVADA DRIVE FOR PARKINSON'S

5TH

OCT / 2024



**Buffet Lunch at Home of Renowned  
Automotive Artist Kelly Telfer**

**\$150 Donation  
for Parkinson's Support**

## DRIVE TO SONORA THROUGH BEAUTIFUL EBBETTS PASS

The rally begins with a brief driver's meeting at 7:30am on Saturday, October 5th, in the parking lot of the Douglas County Community Center in Gardnerville. Enjoy a drive through Sierra fall foliage, lunch in Sonora at home of renowned automotive artist Kelly Telfer, & return to Minden in the afternoon for cocktails in the third floor tasting room at the Minden Mill Distillery (cash bar).

To Sign Up, go to [www.drivetowardacure.org](http://www.drivetowardacure.org) and scroll down to Sierra Nevada Drive for Parkinson's

for info, contact Bill Reuter at [wgr1225@yahoo.com](mailto:wgr1225@yahoo.com) or (614) 477-4571 and leave a message



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THE NEW CLE63 IS  
EXPECTED TO BE POWERED  
BY ONE OF THE NEW  
AMG V8 ENGINES.

# Next Generation V8

## Gas Powered Mercedes Set to Stick Around

by Camille Dodson, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

**W**hile many Mercedes-Benz® customers had been increasingly concerned about the company's future potentially going completely into electric and hybrid vehicles, there is no need for worry. It has been revealed that the up-

coming next-generation AMG CLE63 Coupe is set to stick with the brand's V8 engine rather than swap to the Formula 1 inspired hybrid powertrain in the closely related C63 sedan and new GLC63 SUV.

While not officially confirmed, the upcoming CLE63, which will join the

recently launched CLE Coupe and Cabriolet range sometime in 2025, will be powered by an updated version of the 4.0-liter twin-turbo V8 from the previous C63 Coupe and other models in the AMG range, such as the new GT Coupe. While less powerful than the

(Continued on Page 10)



MERCEDES-AMG IS SAID TO BE DEVELOPING NEW VERSIONS OF THE EIGHT CYLINDER ENGINE FOR FUTURE CARS.

## Next Generation V8

(Continued from Page 9)

500kW/1020Nm 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbocharged hybrid powertrain in the C63 sedan, it's believed AMG is responding to the softer than expected acceptance of a downsized AMG powertrain.

Mercedes-Benz Australia's head of media relations, Jerry Stamoulis, told us that while the new F1-inspired hybrid set-up still has a big future for AMG, retaining the V8 was a priority and that's why it's still available across the GT, GT

4-Door, and others.

"With AMG technology, let's call it, when we went from V8 to supercharged, supercharged to turbo, every time there was concern," he said. "The

(Continued on Page 11)

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# Next Generation V8

(Continued from Page 10)

difference is now, if you want a V8, we have other models with V8s. We've got more to come. V8 is still part of our portfolio. So there are still options. If you really want a V8 AMG, we have one."

Rumor has it the CLE63 was supposed to have a plug-in hybrid setup based around a smaller 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, just like in the C63.

While there is no confirmation on why this might have changed, it is good to see Mercedes-Benz listening to the concerns of their customers and keeping the gas powered V8 engine in their plans. Despite the supposed powertrain change late in the development phase, the CLE63 is still on track to premiere before the end of 2024. It should come in both coupe and convertible

body styles.

The jury is still out on what will power the next-generation E63. However, about a year ago, AMG CEO Michael Schiebe said it wouldn't have a V-8. A plug-in hybrid inline-six or something to that effect would likely bring a power advantage over the CLE63. That said, having a smaller gas engine will be a turnoff for some buyers. 

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OCT 12th

Beer Festival

# Oktoberfest



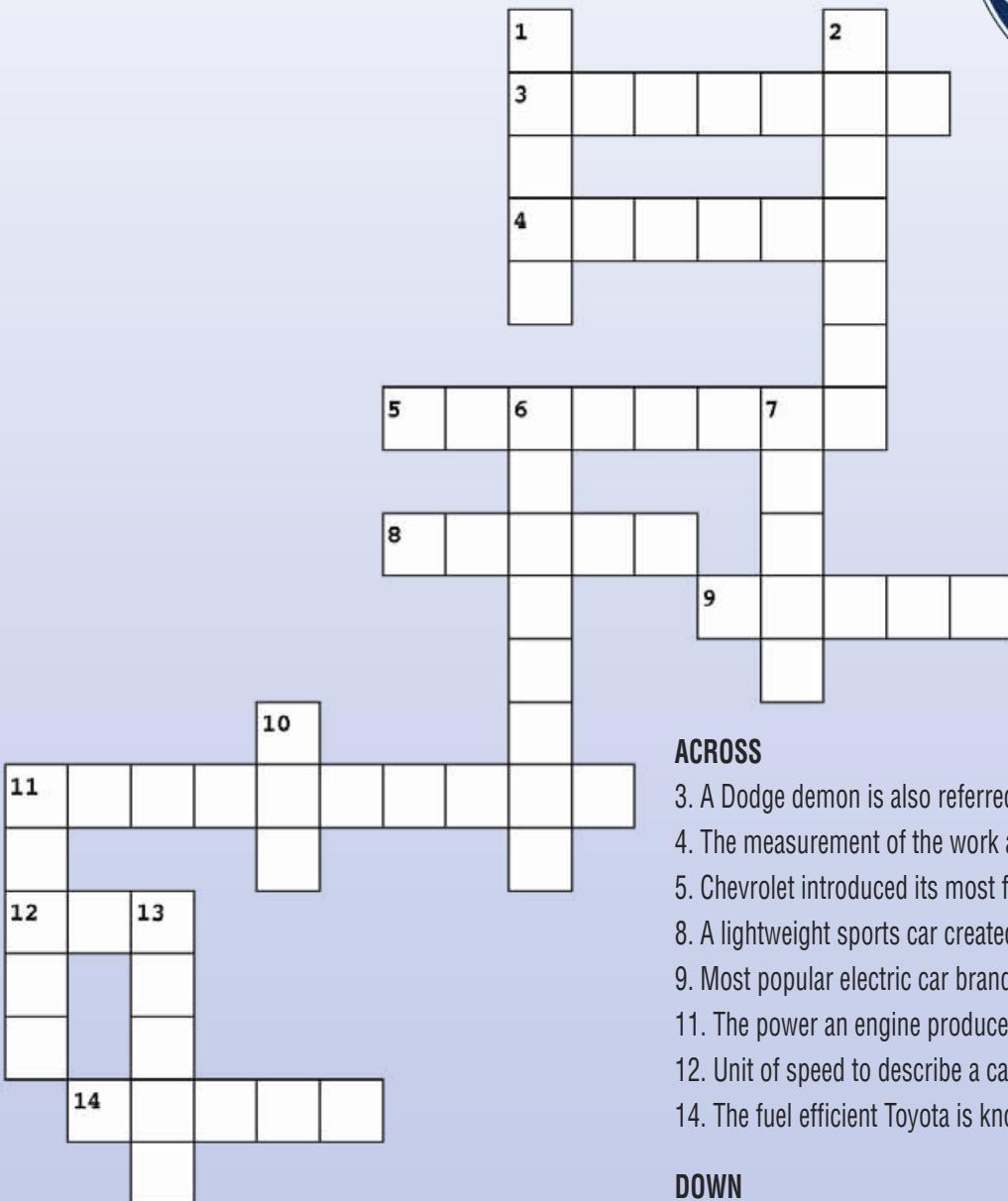
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## Sierra Nevada Section Crossword Puzzle



Puzzle answers can be  
found on the following page.



EVERYONE GETTING READY  
FOR THE SHOW TO START.

## Bye Bye Birdie

### Club Meets Up for Annual Picnic & Play Event

by Vencil Wells, Vice President

In mid-August, members from the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz® Club of America gathered at Bartley Ranch Regional Park for the Annual Summer Picnic and Show. This year, the musical was *Bye Bye Birdie*, put on by the Sierra School of Performing Arts. Many thanks go to LaVern and Carlos Lucovich for hosting the evening.

*Bye Bye Birdie* is set in 1958, following the much-adored rock-and-roll idol, Conrad Birdie, after he has been drafted

into the United States army. His songwriter and agent, Albert, and Albert's secretary and some-time girlfriend, Rosie, hatch a plan for a farewell performance to take place on live television, which they hope will help sell Birdie's new song *One Last Kiss* and ultimately save their record label from going under. To cap off the performance, Birdie has to actually give one last kiss to Kim MacAfee, an avid member of the Conrad Birdie fan club from Sweet Apple, Ohio. When Albert and Rosie head to Sweet Apple to prepare for Birdie's

(Continued on Page 15)



#### Crossword Puzzle Answers

##### Across

- 3. Hellcat
- 4. Torque
- 5. Corvette
- 8. Miata
- 9. Tesla
- 11. Horsepower
- 12. MPH
- 14. Prius

##### Down

- 1. White
- 2. Cayenne
- 6. Roadster
- 7. Tires
- 10. Ten
- 11. HMMWV
- 13. Henry



AFTER OUR PICNIC IN  
THE PAVILLION, WE ALL  
TOOK OUR SEATS FOR THE PLAY.



## Bye Bye Birdie

(Continued from Page 14)

arrival, things start to unravel. MacAfee's father is star struck at the thought of being on television with his daughter, and her boyfriend, Hugo, gets jealous at the thought of her kissing Conrad on national television.

Before the performance, the club enjoyed a picnic dinner at the pavilion inside the park. Everyone brought standard picnic fare, with a few homemade standouts. One couple prepared roasted breaded chicken. Another member dazzled the club with homemade brownies. Other food choices included pasta salads, deviled eggs, green salad, and fruit and vegetable trays. Attendees brought their own drinks to enjoy, and there were a few bottles of wine peppered throughout the group.

The show took place at the Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater inside the park. Members thoroughly enjoyed the musical, with many people raving about the vocalists' performances. It was a beautiful night and the weather was fantastic. Club members came from as far as Carson City and Gardnerville for the performance and no one left disappointed.

Next month's event will be a drive to The Iron Door in

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Graeagle, California, being led by Gail and Vencil Wells. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at [blackswan342@gmail.com](mailto:blackswan342@gmail.com) or (307) 763-1701. 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. ☺

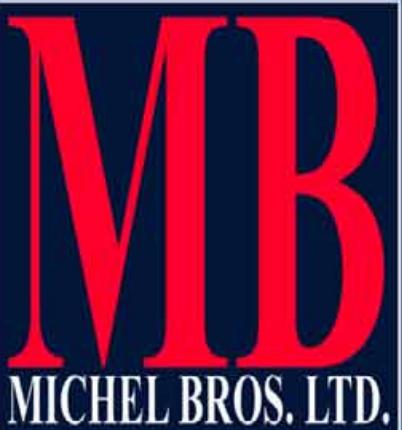
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# Charging Up

## *Mercedes Making Moves to Provide Energy with Coffee*

by Camille Dodson, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



est Coast coffee lovers will soon get a jolt of a different kind, as Mercedes-Benz® is partnering with Starbucks® to build electric vehicle charging stations outside its stores.

The Seattle-based java giant and Mercedes-Benz High-Power Charging (MBHPC) will install hundreds of fast chargers at 100 Starbucks near Interstate 5, according to *Electrek*, an electric vehicle focused news site. The highway runs south from the Canadian border outside of Vancouver through Washington, Oregon, and California and into Mexico near Tijuana. There will be four to ten DC chargers of up to 400 kilowatts at each coffee shop. They will accommodate all EVs but won't

come online until 2025. The chargers will be fitted for NACS and CCS connections, as well as 800-volt batteries.

"This sort of advancement is exactly what we need in the industry," said Carleen Cullen, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Cool the Earth, an independent nonprofit focused on reducing carbon emissions through electric vehicles. "Putting chargers where people shop and eat is the perfect solution."

MBHPC is investing one billion dollars in its network, which opened in November with a station at its Sandy Springs, Georgia, headquarters. There are now 12 locations in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Texas. They are all powered by 100% clean energy. The net-

work over the next 12 to 18 months will expand to almost half of the United States, *Electrek* reported. EV charging station producers MN8 Energy, ChargePoint®, and Alpitronic® are also involved in the project.

EVs are touted for their ability to help lower pollution in our warming world, but their widespread adoption has been slowed by concerns such as range anxiety, which refers to the distances they can travel before their batteries are exhausted. Without ubiquitous charging stations, EV drivers won't have the peace of mind that drivers of gas-guzzlers do.

Charging stations have also been beset by functionality problems, overcrowding, and vandalism. With the

(Continued on Page 18)

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MERCEDES-BENZ CHARGING STATIONS WILL BE INSTALLED AT 100 STARBUCKS NEAR INTERSTATE 5 IN THE NEXT YEAR.

## Charging Up

(Continued from Page 17)

help of these two brands, though, soon there will be so many chargers that such issues aren't meaningful. It's all about working together to create a sustainable future.

"Starbucks is pretty ideal for this," said our contact at Mercedes-Benz. "Just the right amount of time to get a drink, maybe grab a snack, and hit the bathroom, all in a clean place that most likely

you already visit regularly. Compared to a sit-down restaurant that takes too long or gas station that nobody wants to spend 15-20 minutes at, this is a great opportunity to charge your vehicle." ☺

## JOIN US FOR **CARS, COFFEE & CARBS**

9:00 A.M. Third Sunday of Each Month  
at Panera Bread  
6485 S Virginia St in Reno



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



# 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.

## Photo of the Month

### Laundry Tag



A laundry tag on a car? Hand-wash only, air dry. This fun picture came to us from our friends at Zymöl. Zymöl makes automotive cleaning products and is a new sponsor of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

September 4, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Lordita & Erik Nowacki, Nashville Social Club, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Lordita Canlas at lordita88@yahoo.com or (619) 518-9918.

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 or (619) 300-4359.

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

October 5, 2024: Drive for Parkinson's, hosted by Bill Reuter, Sonora, California. To RSVP or for more information, contact Bill Reuter at wgr1225@yahoo.com or (614) 477-4571.

October 12, 2024: Oktoberfest Party, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777.

October 20, 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.

November 5, 2024: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, host and location to be determined.

December 12, 2024: Holiday Party, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, ArrowCreek, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Christy Dodson at christy@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 771-7777.

January 7, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, host and location to be determined.

February 4, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, host and location to be determined.

March 4, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, host and location to be determined.

# IN CLOSING

## Give Me a Sign

### *The Art of a Funny Sign*

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.)



igns are used to get some kind of message to the reader. It isn't always the right message, or a message that makes any sense, but it is a message nonetheless. Either way, it sure is one way to get your attention.

