

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • January 2025



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ITALIAN DINNER

JANUARY 8, 2025

(SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)



Festive Fun

Unforgettable Holiday Dinner at The Club at ArrowCreek

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

In December, a record breaking 56 members of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Mercedes-Benz® Club of America gathered at The Club at ArrowCreek for the Annual Holiday Party. This event was held in the cozy private dining room at the exclusive country club, which the club was able to access thanks to the generosity of John and Peggy Matthews. Overlooking the golf course, the room was dazzlingly beautiful, with white

napkins sprinkled with silver accents and holiday centerpieces. The fireplace was roaring, adding to the cozy, holiday ambiance. With many compliments about the venue and the food, the evening was a resounding success.

Along the side window was a fully stocked bar and a dedicated bartender. Waiters circulated around the room prior to the seated dinner with trays of appetizers. These options included blackened shrimp on cucumber slices

(Continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Happy New Year!

Preparing for the New Year with the Mercedes Club

Happy New Year to all of my friends in the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz® Club of America. The past year was spectacular for my family, and I hope that you can all say the same. The holiday season was bursting with festivities and friends, including our very own Annual Christmas Party. Did you make a New Year's resolution? Mine is to spend even more time with my friends in 2025.

Speaking of dinners and drives, if there is a particular restaurant, drive, or event you'd like to see on our 2025 calendar, please reach out to any of our board members to begin organizing an event for the club. We need more volunteers for events to be held in February, March, and April. We love trying new things and visiting new places with the club and we would love to hear suggestions from all of you.

This year, we once again held our Annual Christmas Party at the Club at ArrowCreek in Reno. The venue was

beautifully decorated and the service there was incredible. Mercedes-Benz of Reno donated the wine for the event, and we are always so grateful for the dealership's generosity and support. The Annual Christmas Party is always a fantastic event to celebrate each other and look back on the amazing year we had as a club. Every year, our club's events get bigger and better, and I'm so grateful to have been along for the ride.

In a couple days, Vencil and I are hosting the Second Wednesday Dinner at Pietro's Famiglia in Sparks on January 8th. Please contact me at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701 if you'd like to attend. We always love to return to this cozy Italian food spot, and I personally think it is a great restaurant to kick off the year. I truly hope that all of you have a Happy New Year.

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

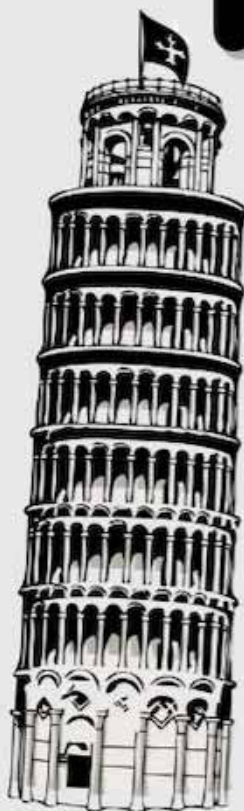
The Silver Star is the official publication of The Sierra Nevada Section of MBCA, however, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Sierra Nevada Section, MBCA, or its officers.

Rome



ITALIAN DINNER

Presented by the Sierra Nevada Mercedes-Benz Club



**Wednesday Dinner
January 8 at 5:30
Pietro's Famiglia
Restaurant**

**834 Victorian Ave.
Suite 200
in Downtown Sparks
order off the menu
separate checks**



Hosted by Gail & Vence Wells • head-count needed for restaurant

RSVP to Gail TEXT CALL **307.763.1701** blackswan342@gmail.com



Festive Fun

(Continued from Page 1)

and grilled lamb chops with a minted demiglace. Service was five-star, with a large group of attentive wait staff and perfect pacing for bringing out the appetizers during the cocktail hour.

There was plenty of time for guests to mingle and chat about their plans for the new year, as well as appreciate the venue which had been specially deco-

rated for the club that night. Elegant, twinkling lights adorned the room, and each table was topped with a festive snow globe as the centerpiece with additional lights surrounding them provided by Christy Dodson. All of the club members were dressed to



the nines, with some of the men even wearing tuxedos. The atmosphere was festive and lively as club members enjoyed martinis, manhattans, and wine.

Complimentary glasses of champagne were passed around before dinner and Gail Wells, President, gave a speech and thanked everyone for coming. Everyone raised their glasses to toast the well being of the club for the coming year. The wine during dinner was paid for by the local Mercedes-Benz of Reno dealership, which is always an incredible donation to receive and the club is very thankful for it. Dinner options were divine, including a salad that was made up of roasted tomatoes, shaved baby carrots, sliced

(Continued on Page 5)



Festive Fun

(Continued from Page 4)

cucumber, and balsamic vinaigrette. Guests were able to choose between two entrees, which were the grilled filet mignon topped with red onion marmalade and cinnamon-infused sweet potato mash, or the pan-seared salmon with soy orange reduction and steamed

rice. A decadent plated tiramisu dessert was the perfect end to the elegant dinner.

Following dessert, Gail Wells was presented with the Section of the Year Award to commemorate the hard work

and dedication that each and every one of our club members puts in to make sure that there are always events and ac-

(Continued on Page 7)

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Festive Fun

(Continued from Page 5)

tivities for our club. This was an honor for our club to receive from the national Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

Ray Rich and Judy Covert drew names for ten different gift cards to local restaurants in town, each with

their own personalized envelopes. Thank you to Christy and Marcus Dodson for gathering the gifts for the party and providing fabulous and sweet homemade party favors which were waiting for everyone at their seats at the dining tables.

The club is incredibly grateful for the support that it gets from Mercedes-Benz of Reno, and is again thankful to them for providing the wine at this year's party, with the guests from the party also appreciating the generous donation. The club had a great time this year, and we can only hope that ArrowCreek will welcome us back again next year to take part in their delicious food and exemplary service. 



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THE MYTHOS
AMG PURESPEED
WAS SHOWN OFF AT
THE MONACO GRAND PRIX.

The PureSpeed

Mercedes Announced Exclusive New Car & Brand

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

Mercedes-Benz® announced plans to launch Mythos, its latest sub-brand, earlier this year. The new line will sit atop of the automaker's portfolio and will produce ultra-exclusive vehicles that combine the best aspects of its powerful AMG and opulent Maybach models. Over the weekend, the German marque unveiled the finished version of its first Mythos car, the AMG PureSpeed, at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix this past weekend.

The AMG PureSpeed makes its debut just six months after it was shown off in concept form before the Monaco Grand Prix. The speedster hasn't changed much in the intervening months, but that's a good thing since the first Mythos model is one of the more visually striking vehicles of 2024.

The new model is an open-top two-seater that lacks a windshield but does have a halo system that divides the cabin and provides protection in case of an accident. This element was inspired by the premier class of motorsport and has been part of every Formula 1™ ve-

hicle since 2018. It protects the driver's head in the event of an accident. Two aerodynamic helmets with integrated intercoms are provided so that the driver and passenger can converse even at high speeds. As an additional feature, smartphones can be paired with the intercom system, allowing the driver and passenger to talk on the phone and listen to music through the helmets' speakers.

It also has a distinctive, for Mercedes, front fascia inspired by that of the AMG One hypercar, as well as two scoops behind the seats like the 300 SLR that Stirling Moss, former Formula 1 driver in the 1950s, and Denis Jenkinson, former motorsports journalist, drove to victory at the 1955 Mille Miglia race in Italy. With its wide air intake, AMG lettering and a dark, chrome-plated Mercedes star on the soft nose, the front resembles the Mercedes-AMG ONE. In addition, the car features an aerodynamically optimized bonnet. The aerodynamics



team's extensive precision work is also evident in the small, partially transparent deflectors on the car's front and sides, which keep turbulence from bothering the driver and passenger.

The example on display in Abu Dhabi had red and black racing-style livery with a ten on the fenders, similar to that worn by the Mercedes race car that won the Targa Florio, Italy, race in 1924. Other colors are available, including the brand's trademark Silver Arrow finish. The interior, meanwhile, features a two-tone color scheme and

(Continued on Page 11)



The PureSpeed

(Continued from Page 10)

a custom analog timepiece on the dash that was designed by IWC Schaffhausen, a Swiss luxury watchmaker.

Mercedes has confirmed that the AMG PureSpeed will be powered by the same twin-turbocharged 4.0-liter V-8 found in the SL63 roadster. Unlike

that car, there's no electrical unit to help boost potency, but output still comes out to an impressive 577 horsepower

(Continued on Page 12)

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THE AMG PURESPEED WILL
HAVE A TWIN-TURBOCHARGED
4.0-LITER V-8 & WILL GO
ZERO TO 62 MPH IN 3.6 SECONDS.



The PureSpeed

(Continued from Page 11)

and 590 ft. lbs. of torque. Mercedes says the car will accelerate from zero to 62 mph in 3.6 seconds and reach a top speed of 196 mph. Other technical features include a nine-speed automatic gearbox, all-wheel drive, rear-wheel

steering, ceramic composite brakes, and a suspension system with semi-active hydraulic roll stabilization.

Mercedes has already said it plans to build just 250 examples of the AMG PureSpeed. The company doesn't men-

tion that the vehicle is sold-out, which suggests there are build slots still available. No price has been announced either, but expect it to be well north of the \$208,150 starting price of the AMG SL63 S E Performance.



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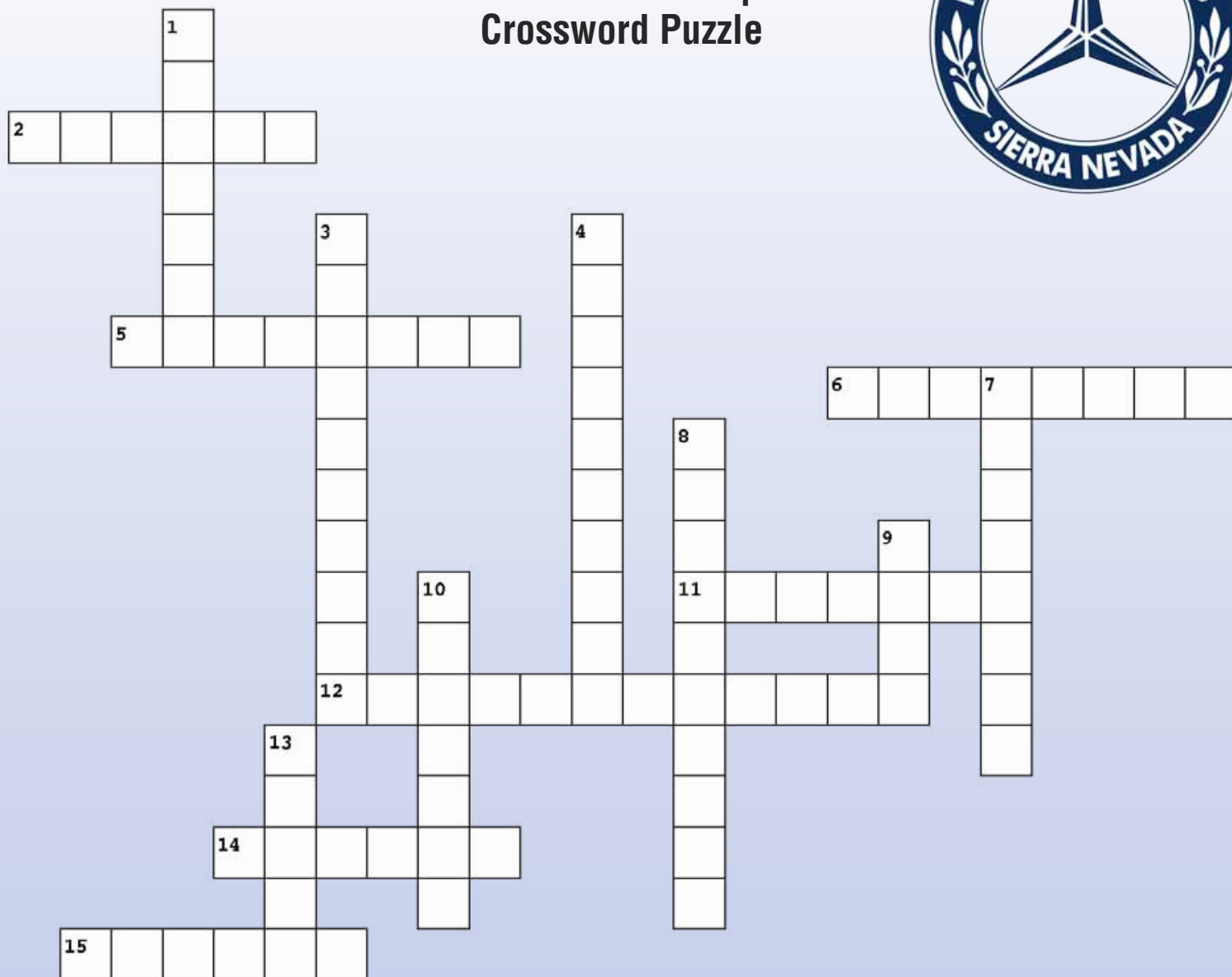


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Sierra Nevada Chapter Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. Disconnects the engine from the wheels in manual cars
5. Chamber where fuel is burned in the engine
6. Distributes air or fuel to engine cylinders
11. Pipe that releases engine gauges
12. Allows wheels to rotate at different speeds
14. Seals the engine parts to prevent leaks
15. Used to start a dead battery

DOWN

1. Stores electrical power for the car
3. Protects the driver from wind and debris
4. Mixes air and fuel for the engine in older cars
7. System used to charge the engine
8. Charges the car battery while driving
9. Powers the engine
10. Reduces noise from the exhaust
13. Slows or stops the vehicle

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



Cutting-Edge Brakes

Mercedes Invents an All New, Maintenance-Free Braking System

by Camille Dodson, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

Mercedes-Benz® just reinvented the brake, and it could make electric vehicles more appealing to budget conscious drivers looking to help the planet. The luxury automaker developed an innovative braking system that lives inside an electric vehicle's drive unit rather than being attached to the wheels, according to Inside EVs. This clever design promises to eliminate the need for brake maintenance for the vehicle's life, potentially saving drivers thousands in service costs.

In the simplest terms, nearly every modern car on the planet uses disk brakes: a rotor attached to a hub with a caliper with brake pads fixed to the control arm at each

wheel. The driver presses the brake pedal and hydraulic fluid is pushed down the brake lines into the caliper, expanding the pistons and pushing the brake pads against the rotor, slowing down the rotation of the rotor connected to the hub, thus slowing down the wheel.

There are other systems, such as drum brakes, air brakes, and band brakes, that have also been around since the dawn of the automotive industry. The concept almost always remains the same by using friction to slow down. There are compression brake systems as well, but that's entirely different.

Mercedes-Benz has put a new spin on an age-old concept with what it calls "in-drive brakes" for electric vehicles. The system being developed at the company's research and de-

(Continued on Page 16)

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Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

2. Clutch
5. Cylinder
6. Manifold
11. Exhaust
12. Differential
14. Gasket
15. Jumper

Down

1. Battery
3. Windshield
4. Carburetor
7. Ignition
8. Alternator
9. Fuel
10. Muffler
13. Brake

A close-up photograph of a mechanic's hands wearing green gloves, using a screwdriver to work on a car engine. The engine components are metallic and complex.

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- A close-up photograph of a silver oil can pouring bright yellow motor oil into a black oil filter. The oil is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic visual.
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 - Transmissions
 - Air Conditioning
 - Brakes
 - Engines
 - Large Stock of Mercedes Parts

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Cutting-Edge Brakes

(Continued from Page 14)

velopment department in Sindelfingen, Germany, integrates the brakes right into the drivetrain, in an arrangement that works very much like a transmission brake. It resembles clutch plates, but with a unique twist.

There are no calipers, instead a circular brake pad connected directly to the output shaft of the electric motor is pressed against a stationary water-cooled ring, all of which is in an enclosed system.

According to Mercedes, the in-drive brake system shouldn't require servicing for the life of the vehicle, potentially saving the owner thousands of dollars in brake repairs and replacements.

(Continued from Page 17)

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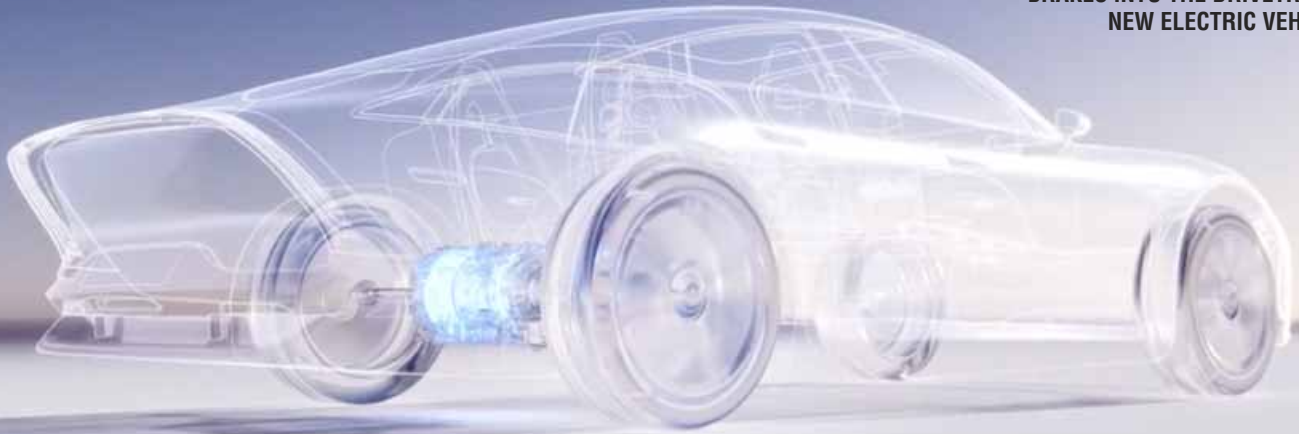
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THE NEW BREAKING SYSTEM WOULD
INTEGRATE THE WATER-COOLED
BRAKES INTO THE DRIVETRAIN OF
NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLES.



Cutting-Edge Brakes

(Continued from Page 16)


Even the brake dust is collected in a small inner compartment that won't require emptying.

Brake dust is a major contributor to pollution, particularly in urban areas with lots of stop-and-go traffic. If you've ever driven down a long, steep slope, you're no stranger to the smell of brake dust. EV motors inherently act as a brake when the accelerator is released, as EV motors have the ability to regenerate electricity back into the batteries, slowing the vehicle down in the process. An actual brake system is still needed, however.

Though the in-drive brake is still undergoing testing, Mercedes believes that brake fade will be a non-issue as the system is water-cooled. Given the in-drive brake system relocates all the necessary slowing components away from the wheels, unsprung weight is significantly reduced, making the vehicle both handle better and improve the ride. Wheels could also be made more aerodynamically efficient without the constraints of rotors and calipers.

A brake system that doesn't require repairs will save owners downtime and money. Consolidating components also saves the manufacturers money and necessary materials, making a smaller impact on the planet. With Euro 7, a set of emission standards decided upon by the Council of the European Union, going into effect in 2026, the dust-sealing design will be ahead of the curve.

While Mercedes focuses on reimagining traditional brake systems for its electric cars, others are rethinking the entire electric vehicle. REE®, an electric vehicle developer specializing in commercial trucks, has taken an interesting approach by relocating everything under the hood into the wheel wells. Motors, drivetrain, steering, suspension, and brakes are all located in the wheel wells, creating a modular platform, one that

very much resembles a skateboard, on which anything can be built on top of, from delivery trucks to sports cars to camper vans. Whether the Mercedes in-drive brakes become a new standard or ends up as a premium upgrade for affluent EV buyers, only time will tell. 

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A romantic-themed background featuring a bottle of wine on the left, a large glass of red wine in the center, and several red roses at the bottom. Red heart-shaped confetti is scattered throughout the dark background.

VALENTINE'S *Dinner* *Save the Date*

February
12th, 2025

hosted by
Christy & Marcus

location
to be determined

ITEMS of INTEREST

The National Automobile Museum

Sierra Nevada MBCA is a Proud Sponsor & We Get Half Off Admission



Here in Reno, we're lucky to be home to one of the top-rated auto museums in the world, The National Automobile Museum. The Sierra Nevada Chapter MBCA is a proud sponsor of the museum!

What does that mean to you? Well, since your club is the sponsor of a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing on prominent display at the museum, all of our members get special benefits:

- Members get ½ off admission into the facility, and the discount applies for any guests, during normal business hours.

- Members can request free guided tours of the museum, subject to the availability of the tour guides.

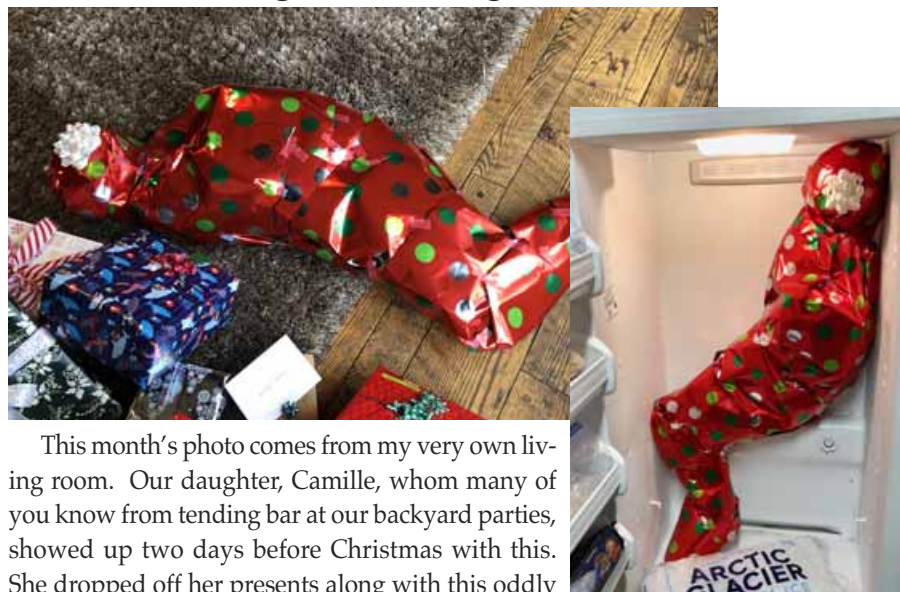
- Members receive a 10% discount at the National Auto Museum gift shop.

The museum has our member list on file, so just tell the cashier your name and that you're a member of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

The National Automobile Museum is located at 10 South Lake Street in Reno, (775) 333-9300.

Photo of the Month

An Interesting Wrapping Job...



This month's photo comes from my very own living room. Our daughter, Camille, whom many of you know from tending bar at our backyard parties, showed up two days before Christmas with this. She dropped off her presents along with this oddly shaped gift. It was life-size, about five-feet long. Eventually it got moved to the freezer in our garage, as it was proposed that it might start to stink (just a photo op). What was inside? In its chest area was a nice wooden salad bowl.

EVENTS

January 8, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Wednesday Dinner, hosted by Gail & Vencil Wells, Pietro's Famiglia Ristorante Italiano, Sparks, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Gail Wells at blackswan342@gmail.com or (307) 763-1701.

February 12, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA Sweetheart Dinner, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson, location to be determined. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

March 4, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Lordita & Erick Nowacki location to be determined.

April 1, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, host and location to be determined.

April 2025, Date To be Announced: Nakoma Lodge Dinner & Drive, Clois, California, hosted by Nancy Jarvis. To RSVP contact Nancy Jarvis at nancy-jarvis48@gmail.com or (775) 721-9070.

May 2-4, 2025: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive, hosted by Sue & Marc Dodson, Dunsmuir, California. Stay two nights in a caboose. To RSVP contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080.

May 24, 2025: Wash & Shine Event, hosted by Bill Reuter, Minden Mill Distillery, Minden, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Bill Reuter at WGR1225@yahoo.com or (614) 477-4571.

July 12, 2025: Christmas in July Party, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson at their home, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

September 20, 2025: Oktoberfest Party, hosted by Christy & Marcus Dodson at their home, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus.c.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 997-9901.

IN CLOSING

Loading

The Art of Loading a Vehicle Properly

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.)

W

e've all done it. We all know that loading or towing a vehicle properly is essential for road safety. Apparently, these people never got the message.

