

# The StarDust

2005

July 2005 | Desert Stars Section | Arizona



Don't Be Left Behind!!

Havasupai '05, October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>



This year the Desert Stars celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> Havasupai Rallye. This Southwest Region event will have Mercedes-Benz aficionados trekking around Roosevelt Lake and through the Tonto National Forest between Globe and Flagstaff, Arizona. Tonto is the fifth largest National Forest in the United States. Its environs range from cactus-studded desert to pine-forested mountains. The terrain varies from 1,300 feet above sea level to nearly 8,000 feet, fostering the varied landscapes and temperatures. We'll cover it all on this weekend excursion.

Set aside the weekend of October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> this year for fun and camaraderie with your fellow Benzers. The weekend kicks off late Friday afternoon with a mixer at the *Apache Gold Best Western Hotel* in Globe. MBCA members will be arriving all afternoon from every part of the Southwest and beyond. Saturday, it's rallye time. Rallyemasters Chuck and Ava Stanford (winners of last year's Havasupai and a few more besides) will take us along the road to experience the sights and sounds of the

Tonto National Forest. There'll be stops along the way for landmarks and lunch. *Editor's Note: Since the Stanfords are not participating in the Rallye, someone else has a chance to win.* If the competition of a rallye is not for you, don't worry. We'll give you a map and timetable for the trek and you can enjoy the drive and scenery at your own leisurely pace. Of course you won't be eligible to win any of the great prizes for participating in the rallye, including the traditional Hopi Kachina Doll for first place.

Once in Flagstaff, we'll gather at the President's Suite of the *Little America Hotel* to wash down some of the road dust and discuss the adventures and ordeals of the day. Around 6:30PM we'll be on the road again, this time chauffeured, to the *Horseman's Lodge and Restaurant* for some southwest hospitality and our awards banquet.

On Sunday you'll have your choice of outings to visit either the Lowell Observatory or the Museum of Northern Arizona. *The Lowell Observatory* was established in 1894 by Percival Lowell to search for life on Mars. The Observatory is credited with the first evidence of the expanding Universe and the discovery of the ninth planet, *Pluto*. *The Museum of Northern Arizona* specializes in exhibitions of Anthropology, Biology, Geology and Fine Arts focused on the Colorado Plateau.

This exciting weekend package includes mixers on Friday and Saturday nights, hotel accommodation for both nights, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings, lunch and dinner on Saturday, entry fees for Sunday's tours, and the Rallye. All you need to bring is yourself, a navigator, and of course your Benz. The cost is \$450<sup>00</sup> per couple. We'll discount the price by \$25<sup>00</sup>, if we receive your registration by September 14<sup>th</sup>. Registrations received after the 14<sup>th</sup> can only be accepted on a space available basis. Fill out the registration on page 4 or go to our website at <http://www.desertstars.org> to register. And don't forget to get into top rallying shape with our September 10<sup>th</sup> Training Rallye -- see page 6. If you have any questions call Rick Stacio at (623) 582-6694 or email him at [president@desertstars.org](mailto:president@desertstars.org).

President's Message:



Did you notice the new masthead on this issue of the **StarDust**? We'd been using the old masthead for quite a while and it was time to update the image. The old masthead had a mid 90's E Class on it and was overdue for a remake. Speaking of changes, if you have ideas or something that you think would improve the newsletter, let me know.

The calendar of events is starting to shape up and it looks like it will be another great schedule for the year. Out of the gate first is a Training Rallye on September 10<sup>th</sup>. This year John Hutchison and Rich Leamon are putting it together and it will be in the southern part of the Valley. Here's your chance to brush up your rallyeing skills for Havasupai. See page 6 for information and registration.

Which bring us to our Southwest Region event, Havasupai '05. This year we will be exploring Roosevelt Lake and the Tonto National Forest. Starting in Globe on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, we end up in Flagstaff with plenty of fun in between provided by Rallyemasters Ava and Chuck Stanford. There's more details (page 1) and registration (page 4) in this issue.

In between these two events, Ron Stafford has set up a High Performance Driver Training event at Firebird Raceway on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He's also holding a get

together on August 6<sup>th</sup> to explain preparation for both yourself and your car. You can check out the details on page 4.

In November we'll be traveling down to Sonoita, Arizona for a wine tasting festival and a visit to the Big Room of Kartchner Caverns. There's more info on page 7.

Your Board is busy working on the rest of the year's schedule. Some of the events include:

- Our Holiday Party at PVCC on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- A family picnic and car show in January.
- Lunch and a Putting Tournament at Desert Highlands on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The MBCA Defensive Driving with Frank and MaryAlice Cozza.
- Memorial Day Weekend Trip. Dick and Mindy are looking at a trip into the Southern California Wine Country.
- Our Annual Business Meeting in June.
- A weekend at the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegence in 2006

We'll also throw in some Technical Sessions and some social activities. The September issue of the **StarDust** will have more details.

If you have an idea for an event, an interesting venue (e.g., the Annual Business Meeting) or want to get involved with planning of an event, call me. Keep the "Save these Dates" close to your calendar so you don't miss an event.

Hope to see you at an event soon.

*Rick Stacio, President  
Desert Stars Section*

**July 2005 Volume 41 Number 4  
©2005 MBCA Desert Stars Section**

The **StarDust** Newsletter is published by the MBCA Desert Stars Section bi-monthly. All rights reserved, except permission to reprint original articles is expressly granted to all MBCA Sections

Send advertising inquiries to:

- [stardust@desertstars.org](mailto:stardust@desertstars.org);
- the address below the Stardust Masthead on the back page;
- or call (623) 582-6694.

**Board of Directors:**

- Rick Stacio, *President*  
[president@desertstars.org](mailto:president@desertstars.org)
- Bob Yoder, *Vice President*  
[vicepresident@desertstars.org](mailto:vicepresident@desertstars.org)
- Richard Sharp, *Treasurer*  
[treasurer@desertstars.org](mailto:treasurer@desertstars.org)
- Amy Nevins, *Secretary*  
[secretary@desertstars.org](mailto:secretary@desertstars.org)
- Valerie Olmsted, *Past President*  
[pastpresident@desertstars.org](mailto:pastpresident@desertstars.org)
- Wayne Burford, *Director*  
[wayne.burford@desertstars.org](mailto:wayne.burford@desertstars.org)
- Bud Cloninger, *Director*  
[bud.cloninger@desertstars.org](mailto:bud.cloninger@desertstars.org)
- Louis Horwin, *Director*  
[louis.horwin@desertstars.org](mailto:louis.horwin@desertstars.org)
- John Hutchison, *Director*  
[john.hutchison@desertstars.org](mailto:john.hutchison@desertstars.org)
- Chuck Landenberger, *Director*  
[chuck.landenberger@desertstars.org](mailto:chuck.landenberger@desertstars.org)
- Rich Leamon, *Director*  
[rich.leamon@desertstars.org](mailto:rich.leamon@desertstars.org)
- Norm Nichol, *Director*  
[norm.nichol@desertstars.org](mailto:norm.nichol@desertstars.org)
- Janice Nichol, *Director*  
[janice.nichol@desertstars.org](mailto:janice.nichol@desertstars.org)
- Mindy Sharp, *Director*  
[mindy.sharp@desertstars.org](mailto:mindy.sharp@desertstars.org)
- Chuck Stanford, Jr., *Director*  
[chuck.stanford jr@desertstars.org](mailto:chuck.stanford jr@desertstars.org)
- Ron Stafford, *Director*  
[ron.stafford@desertstars.org](mailto:ron.stafford@desertstars.org)

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome. Check with a board member concerning place and time.

**Website**

[www.desertstars.org](http://www.desertstars.org)

Rick Stacio,  
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

**Highlights Inside:**

Havasupai '05 ..... 1

President's Message ..... 2

New Members ..... 2

Annual Business Meeting ..... 3

High Performance Training ..... 4

Training Rallye ..... 6

Memorial Day Weekend Trip ..... 7

Wine Tasting & Spelunking ..... 7

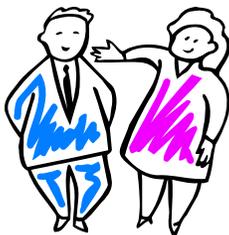
Saves These Dates ..... 8

**New Members**

**May**

- Suzanne Allen
- Jeff & Rochelle Black
- Hans Burkardt
- Amy Nevins
- Jonathan Weisbud
- Ronald Casella
- Jeff & Rochelle Black

- John & Kathleen Waszolek
- John & Dorothy Teichgraeber
- Romeo & Carolyn Guzman



**June**

- Fred Fleet
- Barbara Taylor
- Peter Tekompe
- John Rapasky
- Mansoor Saed
- Patrick & Claire Conner
- Robert & Doris Ebrahim



**YOU'RE NOT JUST BUYING  
A MERCEDES-BENZ,  
YOU'RE BECOMING PART OF THE  
SCHUMACHER FAMILY OF QUALITY.**

**SCHUMACHER**  
NORTH SCOTTSDALE



Mercedes-Benz

480.991.1155 • [www.drivethebest.com](http://www.drivethebest.com)

## DESERT STARS ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, June 5, we held our Desert Stars Annual Meeting at the Phoenician. We had a great turnout—47 Stars—for this important election of officers and planning session.

Our officers for '05-'06 are as follows: Rick Stacio, President; Bob Yoder, V.P.; Dick Sharp, Treasurer; and Amy Nevins, a newcomer to the Club, graciously accepted the position of Secretary from a retiring Elaine Petrick. A big "thanks" for all the effort, energy and patience you infused into the past three years' meetings, Elaine.

The annual brainstorming session prompted some very good suggestions for activities for the months ahead. This year, in addition to perennial favorite events such as Havasupai, the Holiday party at P.V.C.C. and the Defensive Driving Course, we will be incorporating a Performance Driving School, a Family Picnic and Car Show and a Putting Contest at Desert Highlands Golf Club. There is truly something to spark everyone's interest -- all while showing off and enjoying your favorite car!

We have added some new members to the Board of Directors as well—Chuck Stanford stepped down as vice president and was re-elected a Director. Former director Chuck Landenberger, who just moved back to the valley from Hawaii, was also re-elected. Rich Leaman, John Hutchinson and Bud Cloninger were all elected as Directors for the first time. Bud Cloninger owns MB Motors Service & Repair and will be a valuable asset to our tech events.



**Your newly elected Section Officers**

The Phoenician served an outstanding Italian buffet. The menu items were diverse and extremely tasty. I, personally, felt the room we were in was one of the most conducive to this affair with large windows overlooking desert flora.

Elaine Petrick and Dick Sharp presented our President, Rick Stacio, with a Mercedes watch. It was a well-deserved gift from the Board in appreciation for the huge commitment he has made to our club through his presidency, the upkeep of our website and publishing the newsletter. We are truly thankful for your leadership and efforts, Rick.

And thanks to all of you who attended our meeting. With your suggestions in hand we will strive to weave together another exciting year.

By Mindy Sharp

# Havasupai' 05

## Global to Flagstaff

### October 14 - 16, 2005

### Registration Form

Name(s):  Section:

Address:

City:  State/Prov:  Zip:

Contact Information:

Phone No.:   Day  Night  
and/or (specify day and/or night)

Email Address:

Rallye Car Model:  Year:

Awards Dinner Selection: (select number of entrees in each box) –

Mountain Trout:  Pesto Chicken:  12oz. NY Steak:  Pork/Beef BBQ Ribs:

Number attending:  Price is \$450<sup>00</sup> per couple, contact Rick Stacio (623) 582-6694 for any special pricing.

Are you early registering (before Sept. 13, 2005)?  Yes  No If yes, subtract \$25<sup>00</sup> from the price.

If you have any question, or need additional information, please call Rick Stacio at (623) 582-6694.

Make your check payable to: **Desert Stars**; and mail to:

**MBCA Desert Stars**  
c/o Rick Stacio  
3344 West Taro Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85027-6157

## HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVER'S ED

### SAT, OCT 1, 2005

#### SAFETY AND FUN, FOR EVERYONE

Don't miss an opportunity to learn valuable lessons about your driving ability, and the capabilities of your car, in a safe environment. You will be coached by an experienced instructor, moving ahead at your own pace. Please **REGISTER NOW, DO IT TODAY!** To make sure you are counted as coming from the Mercedes-Benz Club, use the special **MBCA registration form**. To get the **MBCA form**, call me 480-664-2680 or go to the Desert Stars website at <http://www.desertstars.org>, and download the registration form. Cost for this training is only \$150<sup>00</sup>.

By getting your registration in early, we can get together on **Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**. We will meet for breakfast at the Scottsdale IHOP at 90th Street and Mountain View Road, three blocks south of Shea Boulevard. I will cover basic preparation for your car, (brakes, tires, coolant, suspension, etc.) and yourself (clothes, sun screen, helmet, food, water, etc.). I will also

have maps to FIREBIRD RACEWAY, and where you will park at the track.

Then on **October 1<sup>st</sup>** at the track, we will have a special tent area for MBCA members and their guests, with refreshments and parking for your car, and your guests. Spectators are free of CHARGE, so bring the family and friends, and don't forget the camera!

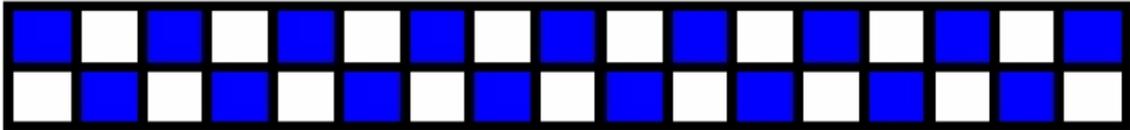
After the on-track events are done for the day, PRO AUTOSPORTS provides beer and cocktails so everyone can wind down and socialize. If you want, we can all chip in and order some Pizzas and make it a party. Please plan to stay awhile and meet the track workers and the Pro Autosports people who work hard so you can have some fun.

See you Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, & Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CALL OR GO TO THE DESERT STARS WEB FOR A REGISTRATION FORM**

by Ron Stafford

# AUTOBAHN



# AUTOSPORT

1429 W. SCOTT AVE. GILBERT, ARIZONA 85233

**480-892-3702**

[WWW.AUTOBAHNAUTOSPORT.COM](http://WWW.AUTOBAHNAUTOSPORT.COM)

**MERCEDES BENZ, BMW, PORSCHE,  
MINI, AUDI, LEXUS, INFINITI, ACURA**

**WE OFFER FINE PRE-OWNED SALES, FULL SERVICE,  
PERFORMANCE TUNING AND COMPLETE DETAILING.**

**ON-SITE "DYNO-JET" CHASSIS DYNO SERVICE AVAILABLE**

**FROM MILD TO WILD...WHAT DO YOU WANT?**

**GET IT ON WITH AUTOBAHN!**



## Training Rallye Reveals Secrets of Rallyeing

Inquisitive and adventurous members are in for a treat this coming September 10<sup>th</sup> as the Desert Stars Section kicks off our new season with a Member Fest guaranteed to be fun for new and old alike. This event will be a fun introduction for those new to rallyeing and a good tune up for experienced rallyeists prior to our forthcoming Havasupai Rallye the weekend of October 14-16, 2005.

Rallyemaster of the 2004 Havasupai Rallye, John Hutchison, assisted by third-place finisher Rich Leamon, has agreed to chair the event which will provide ALL insights into hosting and running a successful contest. Well, maybe not ALL; after all, rallyemasters need to keep a few tricks up their sleeves from the competitive Desert Stars and other Southwest Region participants to keep them on their toes, and to ensure that our future rallyes are "challenging". John and Rich are in the process of organizing a short and simple "fun-run" rallye school to help even the most neophyte rallye rookies. Come and enjoy a casual Saturday afternoon drive through the Southern part of Phoenix and nearby suburbs including many out-of-the-way places that you may not have visited before.

Our seminar will begin with registration at 2:30pm on Saturday September 10, 2005 in the main parking lot at the Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington St. in Phoenix, and send off (at 3:00pm sharp), after which you will meander through scenic varied and surprising areas within the southern part of the 5<sup>th</sup> largest population center

in the US. We haven't ventured into this area of the metroplex for a number of years so it will be a new adventure to most members. Along the way you can experience a revealing view of how fun and easy it is to put on and participate in a rallye. No tricks! No getting lost! No nail biting! This is a rallye that everyone, young and old, will enjoy.

During dinner following the rallye, the rallye teams will grade each others results, and will be asked to show off some of what they've learned during the day. We will also ask any experienced rallyemasters in attendance to talk about their Havasupai efforts over the years to give drivers and navigators alike some foresight into this year's main Havasupai event which is scheduled to take place the weekend of October 14-16, 2005.

So round up your favorite navigator(s), bring along your good humor and join us for what promises to be a delightful Saturday afternoon. Get your reservations in right away (Deadline is August 31, 2005--space may be limited) so that we can make all of the arrangements and complete the rallye clue and question package while you are having a pleasant and safe summer in the Valley of the Sun. An instructional package will be sent to all registrants around September 1, 2005 providing directions to the starting point and other pertinent information about the event.

Call John Hutchison at (480) 473-4887 if you have any questions.

*By John Hutchison*

## Training Rallye September 10, 2005 Registration Form

Name(s):

Address:

City:  State/Prov:  Zip:

Contact Information:

Phone No.:   Day  Night  
and/or (specify day and/or night)

Email Address:

Rallye Car Model:  Year:

Number attending:  Price is \$25<sup>00</sup> per person, plus \$5<sup>00</sup> per car.

If you have any question, please call John Hutchison at (480) 473-4887, or Rich Leamon at (480) 460-8356.

Make your check payable to: **Desert Stars**; and mail to: **MBCA Desert Stars**  
c/o John Hutchison  
9726 East Cavalry Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

## A Memorable Weekend

The Desert Stars enjoyed a terrific leisurely event over the weather-perfect Memorial Day Weekend. We began Friday evening with drinks and wonderful food at the Cameron Trading Post north of Flagstaff. It was quite breezy and we were hoping to see some lightning and rain, but it didn't happen. Bright and early the next morning we gathered for breakfast, drivers' instructions and picture taking. We proceeded north across the Navajo Bridge for views and pictures and then onto Jacob Lake for a short gathering stop. Fredonia, very close to the Utah border, was the next point of interest. The historic Pipe Spring National Monument and the early Mormon settlement there centered on the spring, the important source of water in the area and coveted by the ranchers, white settlers and Native Americans alike.

Then onto the much-anticipated North Rim of the Grand Canyon – spectacular views wherever you look with awesome rock formations and a cobalt blue sky. It was a good thing for our egos and for our perceptions of time to

be at the edge of the Canyon; maybe we all experienced some humility and are better for it.

Once in the National Park, we slept in tiny cabins and felt like kids again. Even the dining room at the Lodge overlooked the Canyon! We had cocktails, snacks and friendly socializing before dinner each evening, meeting in-between and in two cabins.

Sunday was spent touring the overlooks, which were not crowded, and the views cannot be surpassed! It was completely different than the South Rim, quieter, more peaceful. We also had a picnic and did some hiking.

On Monday, the World War II Navajo Code Talkers held a Memorial Day service in the front of the Lodge. It was very moving hearing our National Anthem sung in the Navajo language.

We were reluctant to leave and will always remember this special time together at one of the Wonders of the World. Thank you, Mindy and Dick Sharp for planning and organizing such a fabulous event.

*By Elaine Petrick*

## Wine Tasting & Spelunking Weekend

Join your fellow Desert Stars for a fun filled weekend in Sonoita, Arizona, November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Saturday will be spent at the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Martin's New Release Festival** at the Sonoita Vineyards.



*Appellation Sonoita* was the first commercial vineyards and winery in Arizona. In addition to the wine

tasting, there will be tours, live music and lunch. On Sunday morning we'll tour the **Big Room** of the *Kartchner Caverns*. We've been there twice before but never for the **Big Room**. It is closed most of the year so the bats can breed and will remain residents of the caverns. We only have 30 tickets for the **Big Room** tours and probably won't be able to get any more. We will be staying at the *Sonoita Inn*. Those of you who have made the trip to Sonoita with us before will remember this unique B&B. If you're interested in joining us for this fun weekend, visit the Section's website at <http://www.desertstars.org>



to register for this event and reserve your **Big Room** Tour tickets. When you register, we will give you additional information to make your own room reservation. If you have any questions or don't have access to the Web, call Rick Stacio at (623) 582-6694.



**Desert Stars enjoying Memorial Day Weekend**



**Rider less Horse Ceremony at Grand Canyon North Rim**

*Editor's Note: For more photos in full color and high resolution visit our section website at <http://www.desertstars.org>.*

**Save These Dates:**

High Performance Training Warm-up	Saturday, August 6, 2005
Training Rallye	Saturday, September 10, 2005
High Performance Driver's Education	Saturday, October 1, 2005
Havasupai '05	Weekend of October 14 – 16, 2005
All British & European Car Day	Sunday, October 30, 2005
Wine Tasting and the 'Big Room'	Weekend of November 11 - 13, 2005
Holiday Party at Paradise Valley CC	Sunday, December 11, 2005
Family Picnic and Car Show	January 2006
Putting Tournament at Desert Highlands	Saturday, February 25, 2006
MBCA Defense Driving Clinic	March 2006
British/European Auto Tour	Weekend of April 22 - 23, 2006
Memorial Day Weekend Trip	Weekend of May 26 - 29, 2006
Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance	Weekend in August 2007

Keep the above schedule  
near your calendar –  
Don't miss an event.



Visit our section website at  
<http://www.desertstarts.org>



STARDUST Editor  
3344 W. Taro Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85027-6157

Keep your address updated with  
the MBCA National Business Office at  
(800) 637-2360, or  
<http://mbca.org/mbca/addchange.htm>