

The StarDust

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January 2006 | Desert Stars Section | Arizona



4th Annual Defensive Driving Clinic Scheduled For February 4th

Want to become a safer and more defensive driver? Want your teenager or young adult to learn how to avoid accidents and drive more confidently? Want to learn the real capabilities of your Mercedes-Benz or daily driver?

Join your fellow section members on **Saturday, February 4th** for MBCA's Defensive Driving and Accident Avoidance Education Course. Frank and MaryAlice Cozza, MBCA National Driving Champions, have agreed to bring this great event to us again this year.

All MBCA members and their immediate family are eligible and should take advantage of this rare opportunity to get in-car training on accident-avoidance strategies, performing evasive maneuvers, and truly understanding the handling characteristics of their car. New and inexperienced drivers will especially benefit from this professional instruction and hands-on closed course experience.

Beginning at 9 am, we will meet at **F1 Race Factory, 317 48th St., Phoenix**, where a large portion of the parking lot will be converted into a restricted and marked circuit, protected from other traffic. After some basic instruction, each driver will receive personal in-car instruction on the handling characteristics of their car, how to drive around potential trouble and then safely recover control of their vehicle. Drivers will benefit most by bringing the vehicle they drive daily – Mercedes-Benz or otherwise.

The cost is only \$25 per driver, and licensed drivers under 18 are free with a paying parent MBCA member. Lunch is included in your registration fee (\$7.00 for those under-18 drivers getting free registration). For insurance and liability purposes, only MBCA members and immediate family may participate in this event. After lunch, we will reconfigure the cones to let participants practice some of the maneuvers they have learned in a motor-cross format. The day should wrap up about 4 pm.

This is the fourth consecutive year we have held this event and it has become a real favorite with our section members. Due to the limited availability of instructors and facilities, only a small number of participants can be accommodated. Last year, we were fully booked only a short time after the session was announced. You will find a registration form on page 6 in this issue. Send it in now with your registration fee. For more information, contact the event coordinator, Wayne Burford, at (602) 266-1945 (day of event – (602) 380-6970) or email him at wayne.burford@desertstars.org.

F1 Race Factory (previously a WalMart/Sam's Club) is just south of Washington St. on 48th St. From 143 South, exit Washington, go east 1 block, then south on 48th St. From the 202, exit Van Buren, go west to 48th St., then south.

Wayne Burford

Putting Session at Desert Highland, February 25, 2006

Dust off that old putter, borrow one or just bring your own (each person must have his/her own putter) and join us at Desert Highlands for a fun day. I have erroneously termed this a "putting contest" which may have put some of you off; it should not be dubbed as a competitive event—all are welcome and will enjoy it.

Desert Highlands has a great 18-hole putting course. The holes all vary in length and give a challenge without throw-out-your-putter difficulty. We will meet at 9:15 in the clubhouse to walk to the green together. Our putt-offs will start at 10:00. We will probably be paired up 4 people in a group, depending on the registrations we receive.

Then, after our fun, we will enjoy lunch in the clubhouse at noon with a no-host bar. This event will be \$20.00 per person.

I have participated in this type of event several times and had a great time; I know you will too.

We wish to thank Desert Highland's member, John Olive who has made this event possible for us.

Please sign up on the registration form provided on page 6 of this issue. We look forward to seeing you there. Desert Highlands is located at 10040 E. Happy Valley Rd., Scottsdale.

For questions, please contact me at (480) 661-1325.

Mindy Sharp

Don't miss a Family Day Picnic with the Desert Stars!

If you haven't made reservations for this event at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park on Saturday, January 21st. Call Chuck Landenberger at (623) 748-1472 to see if there is still room. We start at 11:00AM; food at Noon

President's Message:

It was another great Holiday Party last month at the Paradise Valley Country Club. We had a wonderful buffet and enjoyed each other's company in the spirit of the season. We also gathered two huge boxes of children's toys and over \$300 in cash for the Marine Corps' **Toys for Tots** campaign; all donated by our members and guests. I'm sure the Marines were able to brighten the eyes of some needy children with our member's generosity. I'd like to personally thank each of you who donated and made this drive a success. I hope we can repeat it next year and make it a tradition of generosity for the Desert Stars.

Well it's now 2006. I want to wish everyone good fortune and great adventure in the New Year. The good fortune you already have. You drive a Mercedes-Benz automobile. And for the great adventure look what is scheduled for upcoming club events.

We start off the year with a family picnic on Saturday, January 21st. There's train and carousel rides for the youngsters; German Burgers, Brats and Beer for the oldsters; and fun for all.

On Saturday, February 4th, we hold our fourth annual Defensive Driving Clinic and Autocross event with Frank and MaryAlice Cozza. This year we are trying a new location, F1 Race Factory, which should allow us to make the event even more fun than before.

Next on Saturday, February 25th, we'll try something new; a putting session at Desert Highlands Country Club. You don't have to take it seriously; it's just an excuse to get together. There are articles about these events starting on the front page and registration forms on page 6.

In March we have a technical session at Autobahn Autosport in Gilbert. If you're into getting the most performance as possible out of your M-B, this is the event for you. There are more details on page 7 of this

issue for this Saturday, March 11th event, and you can call Hans Burkardt, the proprietor and a member of the Deserts Stars for more information.

The Sharps, this year assisted by Gerry Fortier and Sandra Allan, are again planning a Memorial Day Weekend Road Trip. This year we tour Temecula, California wine country. Look on page 3 of this issue for more information.

There is more on the schedule but I'm running out of space and I must discuss a couple of items. This year the MBCA celebrates its 50th Anniversary. National events are too often held thousands of miles from Phoenix, but we are lucky this year. Two of the events will occur in our backyard. Don't miss these two opportunities to participant. Check the **STAR** magazine for more information.

The Route 66 Rallye is from Chicago to California along what remains of the *Mother Road*. You can join and leave this September 16th – 30th event at any point.

StarFest 2006 is in Las Vegas, Nevada, during October 1 – 5, 2006. This event combines a number of motoring and social events over an extended weekend.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in nominating me for the Southwest Officer of the Year. I had heard inklings, but it was a surprise. I realize the effort that was involved and that it was done voluntarily. That means more to me than the award itself. Everyone works hard at board meetings and at events, and has a lot of fun in the process, but the recognition is appreciated.

See you at an event soon,

*Rick Stacio, President
Desert Stars Section*

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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

Rick Stacio,
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

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New Members

November

- Harry Tahiliani
- Brice & Amy
- Samuel Ron & Rhonda Borino
- Jim & Barbara Strecker
- Brenda Sipes
- Cathy & Jim Harris
- Dave & Nancy Woods



Maxine Proctor-Hammond & David Hammond

December

- Viola Nolan Cliff Warren
- Roger Cox Al Clark
- Stephen Gay Donald Wilson
- Sterling & Joan May
- Michael & Carol Husar
- Walt Mc Ginnis
- Douglas Nichols
- Umesh Kulkarni



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Annual Memorial Day Get-Away

Thanks to Gerry Fortier's and Sandra Allan's scouting out routes and lodging, we will be making a trip to Temecula, California wine country this Memorial Day weekend. Friday night, May 26, we will meet in historic Yuma for a cocktail party. Saturday and Sunday we will stay in Temecula. Temecula is the heart of California's wine regions and includes 20 wineries, in addition to some antique shops.

Our past Memorial Day trips have been a combination of driving, sight seeing, good lodging and great meals with lots of fun. This trip will be new for us too; and from the books and brochures we have been studying, it will be memorable.

We will provide you with further information as it becomes available, however, we have limited rooms booked and will need to have your reservations as soon as possible. There will be a \$300.00 deposit required with your reservation to hold the room. We will not be able to refund this deposit unless we or the hotel can rebook the room. Please fill out the registration form on page 4 to reserve your place on this wonderful weekend. We estimate the total cost to be about \$700.00 per couple for this 3 night get away including hotels and meals. For any questions, contact me at 480-661-1325.

Dick Sharp

Passarelli Restorations Open House

Once again Mark Passarelli is holding an open house and is inviting club members. The open house will be held on Sunday, January 22nd. You do not have to register, just show up between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Attendees of the last few years have seen various stages

of show quality restorations on gullwings, roadsters and other Mercedes. It is well worth the trip up to Cave Creek. We want to thank Mark in advance for his generosity. Mark's address is 41755 N. Old Stage Coach Rd., Cave Creek, AZ 85331



For Sale

1996 Mercedes-Benz C280, Very clean, 114k mi., all service receipts, white/grey, sun roof, 6-CD, leather, power seats, always garaged. \$7000.00 obo. Call (480) 655 8774 ask for Bill or Frank

Holiday Party a Big Success on Many Levels

The 2005 MBCA-Desert Stars Holiday party was a huge success. On the club specific level, over 60 members and guests enjoyed the ambience and cuisine of the Paradise Valley Country Club. Chuck Stanford and Bob Yoder, on behalf of Regional Director, Judy Abrams, presented Rick Stacio with the Southwest Region's *Officer of the Year Award* for his outstanding dedication and hard work, helping to make our section as strong as it is today. John Hutchinson will be the proud keeper of the Loy Peterson Traveling Award, a model of the Mercedes 540k, during 2006. He was also awarded a plaque by Rick Stacio as the Desert Stars Section *Member of the Year* for his excellent service to the section. Membership Chairman, Lou Howin, awarded service pins to Bob Yoder and Jonathan Yobbagy for 20 years of membership in the club. Lou also presented Chuck Stanford with his 15 year pin

and Ron Stafford with his 5 year pin.

On the community assistance level, the Marine Corps **Toys for Tots** program was an outstanding success. Two Marines from the Phoenix area, attended the party as our VIP guests and accepted 75 toys and \$310 in cash donations. All contributed by section members to ensure continued success in their program for this holiday season. We would like to say a heart felt thank you to all that attended the party. Your attendance ensured a successful event. Happy New Year to everyone and we hope to see you at this years upcoming events!

Dee Cloninger

Editor's Note: The below pictures were taken by Bud Cloninger, for more in high resolution color of the Holiday Party go to our website at <http://www.desertstars.org>.



Rick Stacio accepts Southwest Region "Officer of the Year" Award from Bob Yoder and Chuck Stanford



"Member of the Year", John Hutchison is presented the Loy Peterson traveling award from Rick Stacio

Memorial Day Weekend Road Trip May 26 -- 29, 2006, See Page 3 for Details Deposit & Registration Form

Name(s): Number Attending:

Address:

City: State/Prov: Zip:

Contact Information:

Phone No.: Day Night Email Address:

If you have any question, please call Dick or Mindy Sharp at (480) 661-1325.

Make your \$300 check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:

MBCA Desert Stars
c/o Dick Sharp
11371 E. Cochise Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85259

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Defensive Driving Clinic and Autocross at F1 Race Factory

February 4, 2006 Registration Form

Name(s): Number attending: Cost is \$25⁰⁰ per Adult Driver

Address:

City: State/Prov: Zip:

Contact Information:

Phone No.: Day Night Email Address:

If you have any question, please call Wayne Burford at (602) 266-1945.

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

MBCA Desert Stars

c/o Dick Sharp

11371 E. Cochise Drive

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Participation is limited to Desert Stars members and their immediate families. Drivers under 18 are free. Their lunch is \$7⁰⁰.

Putting Session Desert Highlands Country Club

February 25, 2006 Registration Form

Name(s): Number attending: Cost is \$20⁰⁰ per person

Address:

City: State/Prov: Zip:

Contact Information:

Phone No.: Day Night Email Address:

If you have any question, please call Mindy Sharp at (480) 661-1325.

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

MBCA Desert Stars

c/o Dick Sharp

11371 E. Cochise Drive

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Arizona Wine Festival and Kartchner Caverns Weekend

Twenty-two Desert Stars traveled to southern Arizona the weekend of November 12th & 13th, to attend the Sonoita Vineyards Fall Wine Festival and tour the Kartchner Caverns. Most arrived on Friday and after checking into the charming Sonoita Inn, caravanned to nearby Patagonia for a delicious pizza dinner at "Velvet Elvis."

Saturday morning it was off to the Sonoita Vineyards, in Elgin, for a taste of the new release wines and lunch. The winery provided live music and conducted tours of the vineyard.

After the Saint Martin's Blessing of the Wine, which followed lunch, the Desert Stars scattered. Some opted to

continue wine tasting at the other notable wineries in Elgin and some toured Patagonia and Tubac. Back at the Sonoita Inn, an early evening wine and cheese reception gave us a chance to share our afternoon adventures, then to the Steak Out Restaurant for an excellent dinner.

On Sunday morning it was time to pack up and make the drive to the Kartchner Caverns for our "Big Room" tour. This tour is possible only in the late fall and early winter when the cave's resident bats migrate to Mexico.

This exceptional tour capped our wonderful weekend and it was time to head home.

Rich Leamon

Autobahn Autosport Tech Session

The Desert Stars are sponsoring a performance orientated technical event hosted by Autobahn Autosport at their facility 1429 W. Scott Avenue in Gilbert on March 11, 2006. Desert Stars member Hans Burkardt, of Autobahn Autosport, is making their Dyno-Jet LX224 chassis dynamometer available to Desert Stars members at a special rate of \$45 and are providing a light complementary lunch. A safety inspection is included prior to the dyno test. Separate, complementary, safety inspections will also be available for members desiring just the inspection.

Members can tour the immaculate state-of-the-art facilities and inspect the inventory of quality luxury, sports, and exotic cars. Autobahn Autosport's master technicians

will be available to answer questions about the safety inspections and to go over the horsepower, torque and fuel air mixture results of the dyno test.

Members can also investigate, first hand, Autobahn Autosport's affordable sales, service, detailing department and performance modifications consisting of RennTECH, EvoTech, and Lorinser performance products and accessories. Autobahn Autosport will also be showcasing the new Luff wheels that they are exclusively distributing in Arizona. Please call (480) 892-3702 to schedule your dyno test and/or inspection by February 24, 2006.

You can learn more about Autobahn Autosport by visiting their web site at: <http://www.autobahnautosport.com>.

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Mercedes-Benz

Save These Dates:

Family Picnic	Saturday, January 21, 2006
MBCA Defense Driving Clinic	Saturday, February 4, 2006
Putting Session at Desert Highlands	Saturday, February 25, 2006
Tech Session at Autobahn Autosport	Saturday, March 11, 2006
British/European Auto Tour	Weekend of April 22 – 23, 2006
Memorial Day Weekend Trip	Weekend of May 26 – 29, 2006
Annual Business Meeting	Sunday, June 4, 2006
Route 66 Rallye	September 16 – 30, 2006
StarFest 2006 in Las Vegas	Weekend of October 1 – 5, 2006

**Join us for an event soon.
Make the most of your
MBCA membership, in
this it's 50th Anniversary.**



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



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