

# The StarDust #2006

September 2006 | Desert Stars Section | Arizona



## Join Us for Our First "Poker Run"

Is it better to be "lucky" or "smart"? On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, we'll find out how lucky you are at picking a winning hand. For the "smart" (?) ones of us who pay attention to the tour route, there may be a "lucky" card or two.

We begin at 11:00AM with a visit to the Penske Race Car Museum, 7125 E Chauncey Lane. That's just south of Schumacher's on Scottsdale Road south of the 101 interchange in North Scottsdale. Lunch is on your own at the Museum Café overlooking the display floor.

We will tour the scenic northeast valley making several

stops to select your winning (ha) poker hand. Included in the tour will be a "mystery" stop with a presentation that will take you back to pre-television American history. Then, onto dinner and your choice of Penne Pasta with Sautéed Beef Tenderloin Tips, Onion Crusted Walleyed Pike, or Petit Organic Chicken with Caramelized Garlic Cloves. You'll also get the answer to the question first asked in this article, and awards too!!

You'll find a registration form on page 5 of this issue. If you have any questions, contact us at (480) 998-0194.

*Bob Yoder and Elaine Petrick*

## Fall 2006 National Board Meeting in Phoenix

This fall's National Board Meeting will be hosted by the Desert Stars Section in Phoenix, November 9<sup>th</sup> -- 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Grace Inn of Ahwatukee on Elliot Road. Committee meetings will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> -- 10<sup>th</sup> with the full Board Meeting on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are open to MBCA members and guests. Everyone is heartily invited and welcome to attend. Come out and see your club in action and use this opportunity to ask questions of your elected National Board!

On Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, a reception sponsored by MBUSA will be held from 6 PM to 8PM at Mercedes-Benz of Chandler, east of Ray Road and I-10. There will be some gorgeous classics on display. On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, a final banquet will be held at the Grace Inn. These are opportunities to meet your MBCA board/officers up close and personal. Menu choices and price will be posted to the Desert Stars website,

<http://www.desertstars.org>, as soon as finalized, around mid-September.

As the host Section, we will be staffing a Hospitality Suite and looking to our Desert Stars members to help out and have an opportunity to meet your National Board in an informal venue, as well as visitors from other Sections. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Rick Stacio at (623) 582-6694 or at [president@desertstars.org](mailto:president@desertstars.org).

We have made arrangement for a room rate of \$89<sup>00</sup>, including breakfast, for any members who wish to stay at the Grace Inn during these meetings. You can make reservations by calling 800-843-6010 directly and mentioning the Mercedes-Benz Club National Board Meeting. This rate is available for reservation until October 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact me if you have any questions at (623) 748-1472 or [chuck.landenger@desertstars.org](mailto:chuck.landenger@desertstars.org).

*Chuck Landenger*

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## President's Message:

What a wonderful time we had on the "Escape from the Heat, Auto Tour". We experienced gourmet cooking, fine accommodations, drove some fantastic roads, viewed some unbelievably beautiful vistas, and enjoyed the company of very good friends. It was a recipe for an incredible weekend. Add the cool temperature and it was perfect. See the article on page 4 for details.

Well, the celebrating has begun for the MBCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. By the time you receive this newsletter the parties in New Jersey and Chicago will be over and the Route 66 Auto Tour will be enroute to Santa Monica Pier. There is still time to enroll for StarFest in Las Vegas from October 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>. I'm planning on attending and so are a lot of Desert Stars members.

Another national event in the immediate future is the MBCA national election. You should have received your ballot by now. If not, call the National Business Office at (800) 637-2360 and request one. Again this year a candidate from the Desert Stars is one of the candidates for Director-At-Large. I'm prohibited from mentioning his name by the national election rules of the club, but the ballot will identify candidate's section affiliation.

Let me recount some facts about last year's election:

- Only about 10% of the clubs members voted. So your vote is one in a couple of thousand; not one in some twenty plus thousand.
- One of the two candidates in last year's election from the Desert Stars lost by **four** votes.

Another quirk of the election process; candidates are elected by a simple majority of votes cast. Five candidates are vying for the four positions available for Director-At-Large. The top four vote getters are elected. You can vote for as many as four candidates. In this system, your vote is actually diluted, when you vote for more than one candidate. Vote for only the candidates you want. But by all means, if you have a passion for four candidates, you should vote for four, but if you are only familiar with one, don't dilute your vote by voting for more than one. Finally, two important points:

- Please vote, and get the ballot in the mail so it's received by October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Don't vote for more than four candidates. This will invalidate your ballot for those candidates.

Whoever is elected will be seated on the national board at the Annual Board Meeting, this November, here in Phoenix. For details see the front page of this issue.

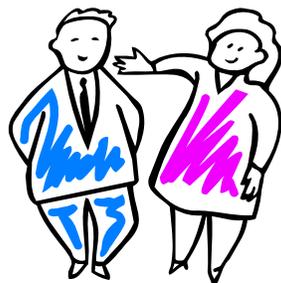
Also on the front page are details of a Poker Run. Sounds like a fun event. The registration form is on page 5.

We'll finish off 2006 with our best attended event, our Holiday Party, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Paradise Valley Country Club. As with last year, we will support the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign and hope to better last year's results. See the November issue of the *StarDust* for information and registration.

See you at an event soon,

*Rick Stacio, President  
Desert Stars Section*

## New Members



### July

Paul O'Farrel  
William Kroger  
Andreas Sanen  
Jeff Nowak  
Roger Dickey  
Jerold & Sandra Perlstein  
Sharon Scheffer  
Marjorie & Ronald Hunter

### August

Thomas Smith  
Bill Tomlinson  
Matthew Leonard  
Brian Lambertsen  
Doris Lee  
Nils Stansbury  
Roy Schott  
Joy Jacobs  
James Carnes  
Nicholai & Victoria Khabibulin  
Edward & Patti Taiford  
Richard Faser & Daryl Alseike  
Jared Smith & Nancy Navarrete  
Bruce & Lesley Martinson  
Clyde & Mary Alice Thomas  
Richard Contreras & Irma Ramirez

## **September 2006 Volume 42 Number 5 ©2006 MBCA Desert Stars Section**

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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*  
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John Teichgraeber, *Director*  
[john.teichgraeber@desertstars.org](mailto:john.teichgraeber@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

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## In Remembrance



Jon and sister Jean after winning Havasupai in 1990

Jon Elford passed away on July 15th at Palm Valley Hospice near his home in Buckeye, after an extended fight with esophageal cancer. All of Jon's family were enthusiastic members. Jon's father, Grant, was a former national and section president and his mother, Jackie, also held local office. His daughter, Kelly, and sister, Jean, helped Grant with publishing the *StarDust* for many years. Jon still had a passion for the 'three point star' and was involved in a restoration when he fell ill.

In recent years Jon had become a pilot and owned an airplane. He had also become a fire fighter and EMT with the Buckeye Valley Fire District.

A memorial service will be held, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Buckeye Airport (I-10 exit 109 south of the freeway), for a fly by at 5:00pm, to scatter his ashes, and then a light supper to follow at the fire station on Van Buren, just west of Sun Valley Parkway (I -10 exit 109 north of the freeway). The family has requested that all Desert Stars member wishing to attend the service and supper to contact Rick Stacio at (623) 582-6694 or [president@desertstars.org](mailto:president@desertstars.org), so they would be able to plan for numbers.

## An Escape from the Heat

For the weekend of August 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, twelve Desert Stars members and two Chaparral members escaped from the heat of the Sonoran Desert into the cool temperatures of Arizona's White Mountains. Friday afternoon, members started to gather at the Greer Lodge. Afternoon thunderstorms lingered, so we utilized the beautiful and rustic seating room of the Lodge to socialize and meet everyone. Around 6:30PM we headed up to the Amberian Peak Inn for a gourmet dinner at their restaurant, and we were not disappointed.



**After dinner at the Amberian Peak Inn**

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we all met at the Butterfly Lodge Museum. This museum celebrates the lives and works of James Willard Schultz and his son Lone Wolf, a writer and artist, respectively, who lived and worked in the Greer cabin that now is the museum.

Around 11:30AM, we gathered to head for Springerville, and a visit to the Casa Malpais Archaeological Park and Museum. Springerville is only a short jaunt from Greer, about 22 miles with a drop in altitude of 1,600ft. What a spectacular view of the Valle Rodondo as we descended to its 7,000ft level.

When we arrived at the museum we browsed the displays and watched a short video of the Casa Malpais excavation. We then caravanned a short distance to the ruins, but thunderheads were forming. By the time we arrived, the storm was pretty well developed and lightning strikes were all around us. Since the site was on the top of a butte and the storm was heading our way, we opted on the side of safety and cancelled the tour of the ruins. We returned to the museum just as a torrential downpour struck Springerville.

After the deluge subsided, we headed to Alpine for their annual Chili Cook-Off. The 30 minute winding drive south on US Rt. 191 bought us back up to 8,000ft and after the rain it was almost chilly (no pun intended.) We were early enough to partake in sampling the competition chilies.

The threat of more rain had thinned the attendance and we decided to forgo the brisket and BBQ ribs contest and head for Hannigan Meadow. At 9,100ft, it is the highest official weather observation station in Arizona. The lodge was originally built in 1926 to feed and lodge travelers along the Clifton – Springerville Highway or the Coronado Trail as it became popularly known (the trip took two days back then.) After checking in, we gathered in the lodge's sitting room and front porch for socializing and to watch for deer and elk in the meadows across the road.

After breakfast on Sunday, it was time to head home. Most of us decided to continue on south along the Coronado Trail to Morenci/Clifton. The 70 miles between Hannagan Meadow and Morenci has 525 sharp curves, many steep drop-offs and some of the most beautiful panoramic views anywhere. Plus, it's a whole lot of fun to drive.

Everyone had a great time, despite the rain, or perhaps, because of the rain! It was a great reprieve from the heat and I'm ready to go back again. Maybe we'll do it again next August. Anyone want to join us?

*Rick Stacio*

### **For Sale:**

1999 SLK230, Looks & smells new, 20,200 miles, white with black interior, automatic transmission, side molding and 6 cd changer, \$21,000.  
Kirby Yale (805) 386-3301. Ventura County, CA.

### **For Sale:**

1972 350SL  
Contact Ellen Elford by email at [elfelle2@hotmail.com](mailto:elfelle2@hotmail.com).

# Poker Run October 28th Registration Form

Name(s):  Number attending:  Cost is \$56<sup>00</sup> per person

Address:

City:  State/Prov.:  Zip:

Contact Information:

Phone No.:   Day  Night Email Address:

If you have any question, please call Bob Yoder or Elaine Petrick at (480) 998-0194.  
Cost includes admission to "mystery" stop and dinner.

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

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**Save These Dates:**

<b>Route 66 Auto Tour</b>	<b>September 16 – 30, 2006</b>
<b>StarFest</b>	<b>October 1 – 5, 2006</b>
<b>Poker Run</b>	<b>Saturday, October 28, 2006</b>
<b>All British &amp; European Car Day</b>	<b>Sunday, October 29, 2006</b>
<b>National Board Meeting in Phoenix</b>	<b>November 9 – 11, 2006</b>
MBUSA Reception at M-B of Chandler	Friday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>
Full Board Meeting	Saturday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>
Final Banquet @ Grace Inn	Saturday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Holiday Party at Paradise Valley CC</b>	<b>Sunday, December 10, 2006</b>

**Celebrate MBCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
at a National Event in our backyard.  
Starfest 2006 in Las Vegas & the Fall  
National Board Meeting here in Phoenix**



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