

The StarDust

January 2009 | Desert Stars Section | Arizona



Feast at Desert Stars' Family Picnic and Car Show

Feast and fun are available on February 14, 2009 at the Desert Stars Section's family picnic. This casual event has been an annual favorite with the Section and it takes place at the excellent facilities of Fountain Hills which also offer breathtaking views of the surrounding area. The picnic gives attendees an excuse and opportunity to polish their cars and show them off to members and passerby attracted by the line-up of appealing autos.

The range of delicious delights includes hamburgers, German franks, salads of all sorts, and a variety of cold drinks including water soft drinks and beer. The kids will enjoy the ever popular "bounce house," as well as the playground that is nearby. Children under 12 years of age

are admitted free, the cost to adults is \$30 per person. New members are especially urged to attend. Those members, who joined the Section after March 2008, will be hosted free. This includes their spouse and children. To register for the picnic, new members are asked to phone Louis Horwin (480) 707-0320, Membership Chairman, to receive a V.I.P. Number.



Also, they are asked to fill-in the registration form in this newsletter and place their V.I.P. number at the top of the registration form and mail it in. All attendees are urged to

register before the end of January. And paying members should mail their checks with their registration forms. You'll find a registration form on page 6.

The picnic will be hosted by Bud Cloninger, Section president, and Bryan O'Connor and John Teichgraeber, event coordinators who will probably do most of the cooking. We suggest that new members introduce themselves to this team of greeters and take advantage of the opportunity to get to know us by meeting many of

the Section's members.

And since it's Valentines Day, a picnic is always a special way to share a romantic moment. We look forward to seeing all members at this event. So do register early!

See Family Picnic on Page 8

Join Our March 7th Poker Run

Ante up for fun on Saturday, March 7, 2009 as we enjoy some Northeast Valley sites and experiences on this half day poker run.

We will commence at Protective Film Solutions, 14825 N. 82nd St., in the Scottsdale Airpark at 9:00 am and will end at a restaurant for a late lunch at approximately 2:30 pm.

Cost will be \$25.00 per person. A registration form is on page 6. Be sure to provide your car's paint code on the registration form. It is a 3 digit number followed by a G or a H. You can find this code on the lower left hand side of the data plate on models manufactured in Germany. It can be found under hood to the right of the hood latch mechanism. For

See Poker Run on Page 8



The 'Father' of Poker Runs has a great hand as usual. Just proves it is better to be lucky than smart.

President's Message:



After 2008 I'm looking forward to 2009. Not to say "08" was a bad year, just a little strange. Our membership dipped a little, most likely due to the economic down turn, but has stabilized by the last few months.. That being said we still have the largest membership in the Southwest Region for M.B.C.A. We are larger than Los Angeles, Orange County or San Diego sections just to name a few. The Desert Stars are one of the most active and engaged sections in the Mercedes Club of America, thanks to our membership.

We are a diverse group. A few of our members are for the STAR magazine only; wanting to keep up with

F 1 racing, interested in vintage car information, or the technical information to keep there car in top shape. But the ones we see often like driving events, or like the social events. We all share at least one thing in common, the Mercedes-Benz Automobile.

If anyone is interested in membership recruitment material to promote your club please contact our membership Chair, Louis Horwin or any board member. Their contact information is on page 3. Maintaining a healthy membership benefits all.

Hope to see you at an event soon,

*Bud Cloninger, President
Desert Stars Section*

By Popular Demand,
We Return to Desert Highlands

Mark your calendars now. Among the beautiful landscaping at the Desert Highlands Country Club is a rolling 18-hole putting course. Please plan on joining us on a Saturday March 28th, 2009 for a morning of challenging putting, followed by an awesome lunch. Prepare to have fun, as this is not serious golf. Last year everyone had a great time, followed by some good conversation during and after lunch.

Desert Highlands Country Club is located at 10040 E. Happy Valley Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255. Located East of Pima Road in North Scottsdale. We'll have complete information and a registration form in the March issue of the *StarDust*.

If you have any questions or wish to donate prizes call Jim Boyle at 480-391-1997.

Jim Boyle

A Peek inside Mercedes-Benz of Chandler

Come on out at 2:00PM on Sunday, March 15, 2008 to get a glimpse inside the Service and Parts Departments of Mercedes-Benz of Chandler off Ray Road exit off I-10.

Some parts and service personnel will be on hand to answer your questions and explain the tools they use. Also, they'll have a GLK available for a close look and a chat with a sales representative. The dealership will have some discount

cards, some boutique items, and the opportunity to buy parts at discount.

MB Chandler is a very good sponsor of the Desert Stars Section, so come and support them. We need a member count of who is going to attend so please send an email to me at pnzrwgn@mac.com or call me at (623) 748-1472.

Chuck Landenberger

New Members

November

Brian Clifton
Robert & Anita Mosley
Richard Sparanese



December

Greg Williams
Wade Spencer
Carolie Grieg
Joseph Russo
Brigetta O'Reilly

Andrew Atwood
Cynthia & Craig Smith
Hakim Abdulrashid & Provia Kamala
Michael & Kenneth & Jack & Anita Lobdell
Sandra Dunn & Rick Webley

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Newsletter Editor:

Rick Stacio

Contributing Credits for this Issue:

Jim Boyle
Michael Broadston
Bud Cloninger
Lou Horwin
John Hutchison
Robert Schmelzer
Mindy Sharp
John Teichgraeber

Photograph Credits for this issue:

Bud Cloninger
Rachelle Burns

Advertising Manager:

John Teichgraeber

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www.desertstars.org

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Desert Stars' Board



President:

Bud Cloninger (602) 326-6210

Vice President:

Bryan O'Connor (602) 620-4795

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Richard Sharp (480) 661-1325

Secretary:

Brynn Burton (480) 832-1504

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Jim Boyle (480) 391-1997

Michael Broadston (623) 876-2632

Lou Horwin (480) 707-0320

Joan May (623) 444-9988

Bryan O'Connor (602) 620-4795

Robert Schmelzer (480) 247-3093

John Teichgraeber (480) 837-3624

Bob Yoder (480) 998-0194

Chairs:

Activities & Events:

John Hutchison (480) 473-4887

Membership:

Louis Horwin (480) 707-0320

Publicity:

Michael Broadston (623) 876-2632

Newsletter Advertising:

John Teichgraeber (480) 837-3624

Newsletter Editor:

Rick Stacio (623) 582-6694

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

The B.E.A.T. Is Back

It is time to register for the 2009 British European Auto Tour! This two day run from Phoenix to Flagstaff is in its 12th year and great fun. For those of you who have never attended, this is a time to get those cars out of the winter doldrums and onto the road.

The tour departs Phoenix at 6:30am sharp (after receiving your goody bag and directions) on **Saturday, April, 18th**, and heads toward Wickenburg. The street is blocked off for us to park our cars, have coffee and donuts and use the bathroom. We leave Wickenburg toward the high desert for the twisting curves of highway 93 and 96 to Kirkland and enter Prescott from the West.

There, Whiskey row is blocked off for us and we lunch in Prescott before heading over Mingus Mountain into Jerome and then down the curves to Cottonwood for another stop and water break. You can either head up highway 89A through Oak Creek or straight to Interstate – 17 for the run into Flagstaff and Little America, our over night stop.

Last year, Desert Stars had 18 cars and 34 members in the 11th running and we would like to have at least that great a turnout this year. There were a total of 160 cars on the B.E.A.T. last year and they are limiting the event to **the first 125 paid registrations** this year. Registration closes on **March 23rd, 2009**, hence the rush to register this year. You can go to **www.beataz.com** and obtain all information and a registration form to send in with your check or money order.

I will be keeping a tally of club members attending and I would appreciate it if you would call me at **623-876-2632** or email at az13@cox.net. Let me know your name and the number in your party. I will be making reservations in Prescott for us to lunch together in Prescott and at Little America for dinner. So let me know if you would like to join their fellow club members for either of these meals during the B.E.A.T. Really hope to see you there.

Michael Broadston

Memorial Day Pre-Registration Form

Contact Information:

Name(s):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email Address:

Phone:

Attending:

Make your check payable for **\$100⁰⁰** to: **MBCA Desert Stars;**

and mail to: **MBCA Desert Stars**

c/o Dick Sharp

11371 East Cochise Drive

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Annual Memorial Day Get-Away

May 22-25

Plans for the 2009 Memorial Day weekend are well underway. This year Dick Sharp will be taking his group of "Pinheads"* to **Zion and Bryce National Parks**. We have reserved 14 rooms in each of the parks (in Bryce we have individual cabins). On Friday, May 22, we will meet and spend our first night in Page, then caravan on Saturday morning to Zion. We have not solidified all our meals plans as yet, but will be working on them.

At this point we need to have a **\$100.00 non-refundable deposit** per couple from those who are interested in this trip. We expect this to be sold out quickly, so if you want to be part of this fabulous weekend, please fill out the registration form above and send it to us before **Feb. 10th**.

I assure you, this will be another memorable trip! If you have any questions, please call me at **480-661-1325**.

Mindy Sharp

* Pin-head (per the Sharp abridged dictionary) is a member of an organized group, who is unable or unwilling to follow simple directions.



Last Year's Memorial Day Weekend Get-Away in Santa Fe

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Havasupai 2009 Announced!!!

We've just begun the New Year, but plans have been underway for the past two months for the 2009 Havasupai Rallye. Mark off Friday-Sunday, September 25-27, 2009 on your calendar so that you can participate in our next Arizona adventure.

This year we will be exploring the Southeastern corner of the State from Tucson to Bisbee. So far, we have chosen the following points off the beaten track in Cochise Territory that you may never have had the opportunity to visit: a park; a museum or two; a cowboy bar; a town that is almost a "ghost town"; and some antique vehicles. Who knows what other exciting things will be found after the Rallyemasters have finished their research! As in past rallyes, there will be photos as well as clues. There will be more details (hotel information, meal arrangements, hints on clue answers, etc.) on the Rallye in

our May and July issues of the *StarDust* along with a final registration form. However, during the next two months Chuck Stanford will be finalizing our lodging and banquet arrangements so there is a **PRE-REGISTRATION FORM** below. So, if you want to ensure that we have a room for you and that you will be on the list for our next Havasupai Adventure, please complete the pre-registration form **before March 1, 2009** and send it along with a \$100 deposit check. Your deposit will be deducted from the final cost of the Rallye which should be about the same as last year's event, between \$400 and \$450.

We look forward to your participation. If you have any questions about Havasupai 2009, please call your Rallyemasters: John & Marianne Hutchison at (480) 473.4887.

John Hutchison

Havasupai 2009 Pre-Registration Form

Contact Information:

Name(s): Number Attending:

Address:

City: State/Prov.: Zip:

Email Address: Phone:

Make your check payable for **\$100⁰⁰** to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to: **MBCA Desert Stars**
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Before you put your top down, make sure you've got your bra on.

Cooler weather means car club runs and long drives with the top down ...wind whipping through your hair ... sun shining from blue skies ... tiny rocks chewing up your bumper ... wayward bugs smashing into your hood.

So before you hit the scenic route, call us to protect your car's front end with the 3M clear bra. And while we're at it, we can protect you and your car's interior with 3M window tint. After all, the stifling heat may be gone, but the sun's harmful UV rays are still penetrating your windows.

As always, car club members receive 10% off any service.



Family Picnic and Car Show

Saturday, February 14, 2009
Registration Form

Contact Information:

Name(s): VIP #:

Address:

City: State/Prov.: Zip:

Phone No.: Day Night

Email Address:

Number Attending: Clean Car Show Model: Year:

Cost is \$30⁰⁰ per person. Children under 12 years old are Free.
New Members, as of March 2008 or after, call Lou Horwin (480) 707-0320 for VIP #.
Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to: **MBCA Desert Stars**
c/o Dick Sharp
11371 East Cochise Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Poker Run

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Registration Form

Contact Information:

Name(s): Paint Code:

Address:

City: State/Prov.: Zip:

Phone No.: Day Night

Email Address:

Number Attending:

Cost is \$25⁰⁰ per person. For questions call Ron Borino at (602) 550-9939.
Registrations should be mail by **February 21th**, after that date call Ron Borino for availability.
Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to: **MBCA Desert Stars**
c/o Dick Sharp
11371 East Cochise Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85259



Tech Session II

On Saturday November 8th MB Motors opened their shop to Desert Star members to host a tech session. The theme for this session was "Maintenance". On display were cars from 1974 to 2007. We talked about the maintenance booklet that comes with the car and how to use it to keep track of services performed.

One maintenance item was performed on each car to familiarize members with the Mercedes maintenance systems. Some of the items covered at the tech session were tire maintenance, brake fluid change and the importance of using quality parts. For the "do it yourselfers" at the session we discussed the Mercedes maintenance manual and how to use it.

After a catered BBQ lunch we looked at the later cars with the Flexible Service System. With the days of the door jamb lube sticker all but gone; understanding how this system works is a must for proper service. We concluded the session with a discussion on the newest cars that decide for you what service is needed and when to do it.

Bud Cloninger



Attendees break of lunch during Tech Session II

An Other Great Holiday Party at FireRock CC

Another busy year for members of the Desert Stars Section was culminated with a Holiday Brunch at FireRock Country Club December 7th. The 54 attendees included six United States Marine Corps guests honoring the Toys for Tots program for 2008. Our own "First Lady", Dee Cloninger, had collected an SUV full of toys for gifts. More toys were added as members brought in additional gifts before the brunch. Including generous cash and raffle contributions, this was the most successful Toys for Tots gift program the club has ever sponsored with 260 boxed toys and \$355.00 in checks. That's over \$1,000.00! We all realize that the economy is taking a toll on many charitable programs this year, making our many Desert Stars members' generosity all that more significant.

As guests arrived to view the beautiful Mercedes cars on display outside, they were served complimentary wine donated by Chappellet vineyards. More donated wine was served during the buffet brunch. The food and service provided was excellent and appreciated by all attendees. During the dining, a continual slide show played photographs of members enjoying

Desert Stars events during 2008.

The club program included an overview of how the Toys for Tots program is administered for recipients by our Marine guests. Desert Stars President, Bud Cloninger, then awarded Rick Stacio his Past President pin and the following members their anniversary service pins.

Member	Years
Boyle, Jim	10
Gray, Doug	10
Brian Burns	5
Bryan, O Connor	5

In addition, Bob Yoder, ex-Member of the Year, took great delight in passing on the Loy Peterson traveling trophy to the 2008 Member of the Year – John Teichgraeber. Thanks go to both of these members who work generously with the Board of Directors in support of Desert Stars events.

Make plans to join the club at next year's Holiday Brunch event December 6

John Teichgraeber



Dee and Bud Cloninger with Toys for Tots Donations



Bob Yoder awards John Teichgraeber with Member of the Year



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Family Picnic (cont'd from page 1)

WHERE: Fountain Park, Activity Area #2, Rotary Splash Pad, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

TIME: February 14, 2009; 11AM TO 4 PM

DIRECTIONS: Heading east on Shea Blvd, turn left onto Saguaro Blvd. There's a McDonald's on the northwest corner. Continue on Saguaro Blvd (aka Veterans Memorial Pkwy) for 2 1/2 to 3 miles. Just before downtown Fountain Hills, turn right onto El Lago Blvd. About 400 feet down El Largo Blvd turn left into parking lot. The northern part of the lot is reserved for our M-Bs. Activity Area #2 is north of the lot.

Louis Horwin

Poker Run (cont'd from page 1)

vehicles manufactured in the U.S. The data driver's door frame may contain the paint code or it may be hand-written on the first inside page of the Service Booklet. If all else fails, call the dealership Parts Department with the VIN and they should be able to provide you with the paint code. For more information contact Ron Borino at 602-550-9939.

Robert Schmelzer

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Save These Dates:

Defensive Driving Clinic	Saturday, January 24, 2009
Family Picnic and Car Show	Saturday, February 14, 2009
Poker Run	Saturday, March 7, 2009
M-B of Chandler Open House	Sunday, March 15, 2009
Putting at Desert Highlands	Saturday, March 28, 2009
British European Auto Tour	Weekend of April 18 – 19, 2009
Memorial Day Weekend Auto Tour	Weekend of May 22 – 25, 2009
Annual Business Meeting	Sunday, June 7, 2009
Southwest Region Rallye (Yuma to Temecula, CA)	Weekend of June 26 – 28, 2009

Don't Miss Our Annual Family Picnic and Clean Car Show at Fountain Park in Fountain Hills. See the Front Page for Details.



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



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

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