



STAR DUST

SEPTEMBER 2010 | DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Desert Stars Tech Session

At this years tech session we are going to get technical. One of the most anxious moments of owning a Mercedes Benz is when it is due for an emissions test.

- What are they testing on my car?
- What if I fail?
- What does "check engine" mean?

These and many more questions will be answered as we unlock the mysteries of the emissions test.

This event will start at 8:30 AM and conclude at 2:00 PM with an hour out for a wonderful catered lunch in between. The cost will be \$25⁰⁰ including lunch. You'll find a registration form on page 6 The location is M.B. Motors, 2730 East McDowell Road, Phoenix. The date is Saturday November 6th.

Please send in your registration promptly and contact me with any questions you may have at 602-326-6210.

Bud Cloninger



At last years Tech Session; vendors pitched their wares.

Latest on Havasupai

Last call! We have a very short extension on the date to get rooms booked for this year's Havasupai Ralley at the Grand Canyon (For details see the July Stardust. If you have already tossed it, for shame, but your lucky; you can find it on our section website – www.desertstars.org >> Newsletters >> Past Issues). If you haven't booked your room and you are planning on participating you have until the September 1st and then rates

go up. After September 7th there are no guarantees to get a room. Also, the club needs to receive your registration right away. There is a registration form on page 6 for all you procrastinators. This is the clubs premier event and it's being held in a grand location. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ron Borino

Have You Seen It Yet?

Have you visited the MBCA's national website lately? If not your in for a pleasant surprise. It's had a major makeover, from the bottom up. It's all new with many new interactive features along with a new look and feel for some of the favorites from the old site, like the MBCA Forums which are now integrated into the new site.

You can browse a lot of the site without even logging in, which many non-members will likely do, but it's just a tease. Members get more. Why else would you be a member? Just log in and the full power of the new MBCA website become available. For instances, there's two versions of the **STAR** magazine. A digital one contains the entire issue displayed as an open magazine and you flip through the pages with your mouse or keyboard. The other version is in the more tradition form like the online versions of many newspapers and news

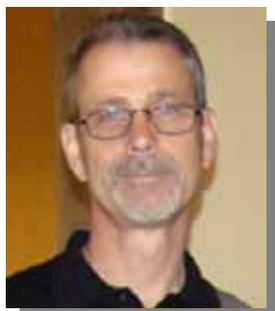
services. This one contains featured and technical articles. Non-members only get teasers of these two version of the **STAR**. There's not enough room in this small article to cover all the features. So get on line and visit the new site. See page 3 for some screen snapshots of the new website.

If the web still intimidates you, then get your son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter to show you. They'll catch on quickly and you'll have some quality time with them. You may even pass on your love of the Mercedes-Benz marque to them.

In case you have problems logging in, type this link, <http://www.desertstars.org/login.pdf>, into your web-browser's address bar. It will display a document which should help, or call me at 623.582.6694; I'll try to walk you though it.

Rick Stacio

President's Message:



As many of you may already know, MBCA's new national website makes it's debut any day now. And may already have done so by the time you read this. I have had the privilege to preview the site for the last month and I am very impressed with the content and ease of use. This new website will bring us into the 21st century with all the informational and social aspects of today's technologies. Do you need to know how many 380SL's were built? Would you like to know when the next National, Regional or section event is? Did your dog chew up your latest Star Magazine before you had a chance to finish reading it? All this information and much more is now just a mouse click away

on MBCA's new web site. I would also like to be the second (see page 72 of the latest Star Magazine) to thank our webmaster and past president Rick Stacio for his many days of hard work helping to create, and get MBCA's new web site up and running. Be sure to drop by the new national website at www.mbca.org or our section website at www.desertstars.org and join in on the fun.

With the Escape From The Heat event in the past, I would like to thank Jim and Barb Boyle for a great time. I am really looking forward to all of the events we have lined up for this fall. The Practice Rallye, Havasupai, Star Nights, the Holiday Party and much more. My wife, Dee, has already started her "Toys for Tots" drive for the party and has mentioned something about needing to rent a U-Haul; I can't wait.

Our national elections are coming up next month. You should receive your ballot by mail by September 15th; if not, contact the NBO. The Club is heading in the right direction now, after years of neglect and inactivity, so it's important for all members to vote for continued strong leadership. If you have any questions regarding the election or the candidates, feel free to call me (602-326-6210) and we can discuss either. **Just remember to vote.**

Hope to see you at an event soon,

*Bud Cloninger, President
Desert Stars Section*

Star Night

Join members Ron and Rhonda Borino for dinner during this new monthly club event. It's primarily designed to introduce new members to the club and to meet current members during a casual evening of food, drink and conversation. These events are no host gathering where we can discuss past and future club events as well as any other topic of interest. Due to seating arrangements these events are limited and members must RSVP to Ron Borino at 602-550-9939, by the dates listed for each event.

Do you have a favorite restaurant suggestion? If so, feel free to email your idea to Ron at rlborino@hotmail.com. Perhaps we can use your idea in an upcoming event. Restaurants must be able to accommodate at least 20 people preferably in a separate space and if possible be a locally owned facility, resort, hotel, etc. We want to try great places all over the valley. The next three Star Nights are:

Thursday, September 16th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Are you ready to get lucky? This month we go to Orange Sky at the Talking Stick Resort [<http://talkingstickresort.com/>]. This is an absolutely upscale [15 stories up] restaurant featuring a great menu. Of course getting through the casino without trying your luck could be hard. The address is 9800 E. Indian Bend Road Scottsdale, AZ, 480-850-7777. RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 14th. This event is limited to the first 20 respondents. Due to the reservation system at Orange Sky please be certain that your email is registered with the club in the event a change needs to be made. That change notification will be by email only.

See More Star Night Dates on page 3

Welcome New Members

July

- Rob Watts
- Robert & Janeth Hauser
- Jon & Lana Mellen
- Steve Dowdy
- Doris & James Wigington



August

- Lawrence Allen
- Peter Tekampe
- Julie & Graham Joyce
- Larry Bricker
- Michael Raymond
- Joseph Esneault
- Raymond Mickienan
- Carl Sisto
- Jack Dale
- Alexander Martinez

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Rich Schulte (401) 225-2090
- 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.

Screen Snapshots From New National Website



Above the new MBCA website's homepage; below the digital version of the STAR magazine.



More Star Night Dates

Thursday, October 21st beginning at 6:00 P.M.

We are heading south this month. We are going to Seville Golf and Country Club in Gilbert (www.sevillegcc.com). Rhonda and I were there a few months ago and had a very nice dinner in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. The address is 6683 South Clubhouse Drive, Gilbert, AZ, 480-279-3017. Leave plenty of time to get there unless you are coming from Gilbert. RSVP no later than **Tuesday, October 19th**. This event is limited to the first 20 respondents.

Thursday, November 18th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

This is the final Star Night for 2010. We are going to a Phoenix favorite this month; T. Cooks at the Royal Palms Resort and Spa (www.royalpalmsresortandspa.com). The address is 5200 East Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ, 602-808-0766. RSVP no later than **Sunday, November 14th**. This event is limited to **14 attendees** so it will be important to RSVP and do so as early as possible.

Escape From the Heat

Well another summer's gone. As has been a long and enjoyable tradition with the Desert Stars, our August weekend trip to the high country happened Friday the 13th. But oh, how lucky we were; the weather was perfect even better than last year, and no breakdowns or roadside repairs on our many miles of driving.

We all met on Friday evening at the *Wild Woman Saloon* with better than average pub food, talked and laughed until well after the sun went down. Saturday we went for a drive, visiting Window Rock, home of the Navajo Nation. First, we visited the city, drawing a small but friendly crowd of Mercedes lovers. Second, we visited *The Window Rock*; well, we visited the rock after I made a wrong turn and made everyone turn around. Window Rock is a natural rock formation that the weather has worn a perfectly round hole into, and is a symbol of the Navajo Nation.

Lunch was in Window Rock, the city, at Dine, that's the name of the restaurant; it doesn't mean to dine, restaurant, or diner. It means, 'the people' and is what the Navajos call themselves. They served Navajo food and regular fare and it was the best food in town.

Our next scheduled stop was at the *Hubbell Trading Post*, the oldest in the Southwest. Established in 1878, they still have Navajo clothing, rugs and pottery for sale. If only those creaky old floor boards could talk.

We drove back towards Overgaard and stopped at a big Truck Stop along I-40. Half of our crowd must have been suffering from shopping withdrawal as they enjoyed all the trucker and souvenir items. The 12 volt appliances and ovens were interesting. No Mercedes-Benz mud flaps were available, they must have been sold out. We drove about 300 miles and made it back to Overgaard in the late afternoon and had cold refreshments and snacks on Jim and Barbs Deck. What a great day.

We met for the banquet at the *Pine Meadows Country Club*. Chef Sara fed us very well. Leaving the dinner and walking to the car was spectacular with the Milky Way spread out across the clear mountain sky.

Everyone had a great time and is really looking forward to next year.

Jim Boyle



	<p>cab-ri-o-let [kab-re-uh-ley] - noun an automobile resembling a coupe, but with a folding top.</p> <p>The 2011 E-Class Cabriolet</p>
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The all new E-Class Cabriolet is the latest addition to the E-Class line-up. The open-top, two-door model, which is here at Phoenix Motor Company, features a classic fabric soft top, making for a stylistically pure cabriolet feeling. Viewed from the side, the new model is an intriguing proposition - with its clear proportions and a flawless cabriolet silhouette.

You need to come by and drive the E-Class Cabriolet and experience the AIRCAP® automatic draft-stop system: always on board and easily controllable at the push of a button. It reduces turbulence substantially for all four seat occupants.

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Havasupai 2010

Weekend of October 1 -- 3, 2010
Registration Form

Contact Information:Name(s): Number Attending: Address: City: State/Prov.: Zip: Email Address: Phone No.:

Cost is \$130 per couple or \$65 per person. Remember to deduction the pre-registration fee of \$100, if you pre-registered.
Any questions call Don Burton at (480) 832-1504

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to: **MBCA Desert Stars**
c/o Don Burton
3734 East Oasis Circle
Mesa, AZ 85215-9730

Tech Session

Saturday, November 6, 2010
Registration Form

Contact Information:Name(s): Number Attending: Address: City: State/Prov.: Zip: Email Address: Phone No.:

The cost is \$25⁰⁰ per person. For questions and additional information, contact Bud Cloninger at (602) 326-6210
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

WantedDesert Stars Newsletter Editor

Our Newsletter Editor, Rick Stacio, is stepping down after many years of building one of the finest newsletters the Mercedes Club of America has to offer. His last issue will be the November 2010 issue, so the Section is soliciting people within the Section to fill this large void. Being newsletter editor will make you a member on the Desert Stars board and will require advanced computer skills to organize and produce our newsletter. We are asking for any member with these skills that would like to assist us to please contact me, or any board member if interested.

Bud Cloninger
President
Desert Stars

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You're Invited

September 19, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.

C-CAP Heavy Medal Culinary Competition

Chef Francesco Roccato of the InterContinental Montelucia Resort challenges
Chef Charles Kassels of the landmark El Chorro Lodge for the
2010 C-CAP Heavy Medal Title

Guests will enjoy dinner, with wine, prepared by the chefs.
Three audience members will join our celebrity judges in determining the winner.
Proceeds will benefit Arizona C-CAP high schools with teacher training and
scholarships for students to continue their culinary education.

Date: Sunday September 19th, 2010

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: InterContinental Montelucia Resort and Joya Spa
4949 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley

Price: \$175 per person

To purchase tickets online, go to www.blacktie-arizona.com/rsvp
enter event code: ccap2010

If you have questions, please email arizonaccap@gmail.com or call 623.594.0117



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Featured Mercedes and Friend

In this issue our featured Mercedes is a 2007 Sprinter Van and its friends are Bryan and Mary O'Conner. With nine children ages six to twenty-two, there comes a time when your average run-of-the-mill mini van just doesn't work well. In 2007 Bryan went looking for something more dependable and fuel efficient to replace the Ford Econoline van that they were driving. He found a slightly used Sprinter Van with 17,000 miles and bought it. As soon as he got it home, the Dodge emblems were removed and the appropriate Mercedes badges were installed to return it to its rightful status. All their children love the family van and with four kids of driving age, it seems the Sprinter is in constant use. Their Sprinter can seat ten people with all their gear and now has over 96,000 miles on it. With school, sporting events, graduations and any other after school activities nine kids can dream up, this Mercedes has really come through for the family.

You know when your Mercedes becomes part of the family when your Daughter asks to use it at her wedding! A few years ago Mary brought the Sprinter out for our Defensive Driving Event and negotiated the course with ease. The instructors were quite impressed. Bryan and Mary have been Members for over

seven years and Bryan has served the Desert Stars as our Vice President in the past and is currently a director on the section's board. Bryan also has a 1999 E320 with over 225,000 miles on it that he uses for work. With children growing up and beginning to leave home they are already talking about who will get the Sprinter. The E320 is their second choice.

Bud Cloninger





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

July 2010

The StarDust

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Save These Dates:

Star Night (see page 2 & 3)	Thursday, September 16, 2010
Havasupai 2010 Rallye	Weekend of October 1 – 3, 2010
Tech Session	Saturday, November 6, 2010
Holiday Party	Sunday, December 6, 2010
Scottsdale Auctions Enthusiasts Dinner	Saturday, January 22, 2011
Passarelli Open House	Sunday, January 23, 2011
Defensive Driving Clinic & Autocross	Saturday, January 29, 2011
Poker Run	Saturday, February 19, 2011
Family Picnic and Clean Car Show	Saturday, March 5, 2011
Putting and Lunch at Desert Highlands	Saturday, March 26, 2011
The British European Auto Tour	Weekend of April 16 – 17, 2011

Don't Miss Havasupai 2010,
There still time to join your Desert
Star Friend for the adventure



Visit our section website at
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