



Southwest Region Welcomes Havasupai '11



Forget the soft economy and high gas prices and come join the Desert Stars as we celebrate our 47th annual edition of the fall classic, *Havasupai Rallye Weekend*. This year's Southwest Regional event will have Mercedes-Benz aficionados sticking close to Metro Phoenix while we visit several of the region's true Points of Pride. Our home base for the weekend will be Litchfield Park's luxurious and historic *Wigwam Resort*. Hospitality ministers **Ron and Rhonda Borino** have assembled a fun, comfortable weekend at this celebrated property.

Since 1918, the luxurious and genteel *Wigwam Resort* has hosted business executives and leisure travelers with pure and simple Southwestern Hospitality. Originally a posh retreat for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company executives, the property has benefited from a recent restoration by new investors including local businessman and sports magnate **Jerry Colangelo**. Of special note is the far western metro Phoenix location, which will make a shorter trek for West Coast members while providing just enough of a drive for us locals to feel like we're "getting away" for the weekend.

Set aside the weekend of September 9th through the 11th for fun and camaraderie with your fellow Benzers. Plan on arriving Friday night for a mixer with old and new friends, and rallye competitors from across the Southwest. Or come early for a round of golf on one of the Wigwam's stunning Robert Trent Jones-designed championship courses.

Saturday it's rallye time, and Rallyemasters **Chuck and Ava Stanford** will be sure we see some of the scenic roads and most interesting sights the region has to offer – with a competitive twist of course. We'll take in some significant and exciting points of interest and there will be stops along the way for landmarks and lunch. 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 the great prizes for participating in the rallye, including the traditional Indian Kachinas awarded to the top finishers. Sunday could find you relaxing by one of the four fabulous pools on the property before heading home.

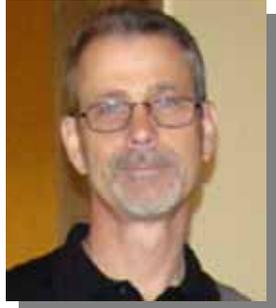
Thanks to some sharp negotiating, we're able to offer this complete weekend for only \$445. One price includes two nights' lodging in one of the Wigwam's luxurious oversized Adobe Fairway Rooms, Friday cocktail/welcome reception, all meals for the weekend including the Saturday Awards Banquet at the Wigwam's signature dining room, prizes, and other goodies.

What a terrific deal!! **Reserve NOW!** Send your check with the form on Page 6 and we'll contact you to get details for meals and activities. The room block gets released on August 10 so sign up now!

Chuck Stanford



President's Message:



With the start of summer, our annual business meeting and elections behind us, I once again find myself as our President. With all the great people and a long list of activities planned I truly feel privileged to be in this position. Although our officers remain the same there have been a few changes to our Board of Directors. **Lou Horwin's** three-year tenure as Director has come to an end, but he will continue on as our Membership Chair. Also, **Andrew Flynn** has been elected as a new Director for our Board. I would like to thank Lou for his years of service and am happy to welcome Andrew to the Board. Being I am in the midst of handing out accolades there are a few other people to mention. I would like to thank our Vice President **Robert Schmelzer** and his wife Mary for the wonderful venue for our Annual Business Meeting. Also I have to thank Chef **Kevin Binkley** for his very personal attention to our meal, and giving us the run of the place for our meeting!

Now that I'm done with events past, I would like to look to our future. Our annual *Escape from the Heat* get-away in Heber AZ is all set to go. **Jim Boyle** has a relaxing weekend planned that I'm sure you won't want to miss! I know I won't!

Work has been steadily moving forward for *Starfest 2012*. Our hospitality team is busy finalizing hotel and banquet facilities at the *Biltmore*. Several members are working hard at organizing a world class *Concours d'Elagance*. Also a few members and myself are talking with *Firebird Raceway* to build the diving portion of this event. These three events may be the large parts of Starfest, but there are many other smaller pieces that have to come together. This is just the basic framework of what I hope to be an exciting time for everyone. We have much work ahead to fill in the blanks. Vendors, technical seminars, rally's and sponsorships are just a few of the things needed to make this event happen. I'll keep you posted on our progress.

I hope to see you at an event or Star Night soon!

Bud Cloninger, President
Desert Stars Section

Star Night

Join **Ron and Rhonda Borino** and other Desert Star members for dinner. This club event is designed to be a casual evening of fun, food, drink and conversation. We will discuss past and future club events as well as any other topic of interest. New members are encouraged to attend this event. The location will move throughout the valley and is scheduled for the 3rd Thursday unless there is a conflict. Attendees are responsible for their food, drinks and the portion of the gratuity assessed by the establishment. Due to seating arrangements these events are limited and members must RSVP to Ron Borino at 602-550-9939, before the dates listed for each event.

Do you have a favorite restaurant suggestion? If so, feel free to email your idea to Ron **No Star Nights for July and August.**

We will be taking a short breather during these hot summer months. We look forward to resuming this event come September. Hope to see you there!

Ron Borino

Welcome New Members

May

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Joseph Civello | Nikolai Khabibulin |
| Clay Cowgill | Nikolas Kresojevich |
| Joseph Demarco | Dick Leisinger |
| Ted & Kathy Dicken | Thomas Swett |
| Louis & Aida Flamino | James Worth |
| Archibald Gaebel | John Dugan |



June

- Ivan Hood
- Mickey & Linda Low
- Lewis & Marla Wilmont
- Lavada & Young Ezekiel
- Richard Gunderson
- Joseph Swiatek

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Highlights Inside:

Wigwam Havasupai '11.....	1
President's Message.....	2
Star Night.....	2
New Members.....	2
Escape from the Heat.....	3
Congratulations!.....	3
Desert Highlands Highlights.....	4
Registration Forms.....	6
Memorial Day Weekend Odyssey	7
2011 Annual Business Meeting.....	7
Mercedes-Benz and Friend.....	9
Save These Dates.....	10

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

Escape From the Heat 2011Schlagen Sie die Hitze 2011August, 12th, 13th, and 14th

Its time to reserve your place for the 2011 edition of escape the valley heat for the cool pines of Heber/Overgaard, Arizona.

Dates this year are August 12th, 13th, & 14th. Heber/Overgaard are about 135 miles northeast of Phoenix between Payson and Showlow on Hwy 260.

Do not worry about being surrounded by charred landscape as we are about 100 miles from the fire. Unfortunately Bison Ranch is not available at this time. I have made reservations at the *Sawmill Inn-Best Western* in Heber, (1877 Hwy 260 Heber AZ). A block of rooms is on hold in my name, (**James Boyle**). The Saw Mill Inn features a free breakfast. This year the rates are less than last year: Friday and Saturday at \$74+tax (2-night minimum).

Call the Sawmill Inn at (928) 535-5053 and mention **James Boyle** to get the reserved discount rate. Also **please call me** (480) 391-1997!

Friday night we will meet at the *Red Onion Saloon and Grill*. A non-competitive driving event is planned for Saturday. Reservations are made for *Pine Shadows Country Club Restaurant* for Saturday night.

More fun activities are being planned, for more information call Jim Boyle, cell: (480) 391-1997; home: (480) 365-8134.

Jim Boyle

Congratulations for Our Own Desert Star Members!!

Congratulations are in order for two of the Desert Stars finest. **James Morrison** and **Ray Miller**. They are the winners in the **MBCA 2011 National Raffle!**

James received the first place prize, a 2011 E 550 Mercedes (or cash equivalent). Ray and five other members from around the country won a substantial amount of cash as fourth place winners. As for these two lucky winners I have only two things to say. James, get the wood/leather steering wheel, as it will really go well with the burlled walnut wood package that I'm sure you will want to get. And Ray, let me know if you have any favorite Power Ball numbers!

Bud Cloninger

Desert Highland Highlights

Oh what a lovely Spring, May 21st was especially nice as the Desert Stars went putting at *Desert Highlands Golf Course*. Their 18 hole putting course is so spectacular and so difficult.

None the less a great group of Mercedes enthusiasts made their way to the event bright and early to take in the million dollar views of the valley while enjoying this wonderful outing. If you did not make it to this event this year or in the past make sure you can attend next year.

Bob Stoffer played the best with a winning score of 43, **John Hutchison** had a hole in one, as did **Greg Odegard**. **Ron Borino** had longest drive and straightest drive. **Bud Cloninger** had two birdies, an eagle, two doves, a Mustang, and a Bmw.

Jim Boyle had fastest lap in the golf cart competition with a 1:39.6, **Walt Anderson** had a 139.7436, and **Chuck Stanford** was a DNF.

Lunch was fantastic with enjoyable food, wonderful service and great company.

One of our new members, **Mamiko Odegard** signed two of her latest books, which were treasured prizes.

Many thanks to **Bob "Ace" Mandeville** for sponsoring this event.

Jim Boyle




cab-ri-o-let
[kab-re-uh-ley]
- noun
an automobile resembling a coupe, but with a folding top.

The 2011 E-Class Cabriolet

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.

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Registration FormsHavasupai 2011 Pre-Registration FormSaturday, September 9-11th, 2011**Contact Information:**Name(s): Number Attending: Address: City: State/Prov.: Zip: Email Address: Phone No.:

Send your per-registration fee of \$100 to reserve your place. 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 Chuck Stanford, 11405 De La O
 Road Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

Please select: Do you prefer a King or Queen sized bed.

Are you interested in extending a few days before or after for a great price? Check Box →

What type of car will you be driving?

Please include your email address, as maps and information will be delivered this way.

Escape From the Heat 2011Schlagen Sie die Hitze 2011Starting Friday, August 12th, 13th, & 14th 2011**Contact Information:**Name(s): Number Attending: Address: City: State/Prov.: Zip: Email Address: Phone No.:

The discounted reserved price is under Jim Boyle at the Sawmill Inn- Best Western (928) 535-5053
 Call Jim Boyle after you have reserved your rooms at (480) 391-1997

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**

Memorial Day Weekend Odyssey

This year **Dick and Mindy Sharp** led 14 Desert Stars on another outstanding Memorial Day trip to New Mexico! Our weekend was filled with new experiences and wonder. Carlsbad and Slaughter Canyon caves with all their “mites” and “tites” were just a small sample of the fun that was had. After many hours of cave exploring by flashlight and dodging bats we were on the road again. Along the way we visited Silver City, an amazing town reminiscent of the 60’s and 70’s. White Sands National Park was pristine and had spectacular views. We also stopped and visited the *Roswell Museum*, which was as strange as E.T. his-self. All of us had a great weekend full of memories that will never be forgotten. Keep next Memorial Day free, as this is a “must do” event next year.

Bob Yoder & Elaine Petrick



Desert Stars Attend 2011 Annual Business Meeting

This years annual business meeting at *Binkley's Restaurant* went off wonderfully and was the perfect venue to enjoy a great meal and hold elections. After a fantastic lunch with first class service we attended to our Club's business. Our events were recapped with an eye on bringing us a better, and more diverse selection to choose from. Elections were conducted and the meeting was reluctantly called to a close. I find this a great way to conclude Club business and kick off the dog days of summer! Below you will find a complete list of Officers and Directors for our Desert Stars Section.

Bud Cloninger

Officers:

- President:** Bud Cloninger
- Vice President:** Robert Schmelzer
- Treasurer:** Dick Sharp
- Secretary:** Brynn Burton

Directors:

- Ron Borino
- Bob Yoder
- John Hutchinson
- Rich Schulte
- Rick Stacio
- Chuck Stanford
- Bryan O'Conner
- Jm Meece
- Matt Crawford
- Jm Boyle
- Andrew Flynn





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Mercedes-Benz and Friend

This issue's Mercedes-Benz and friend is **Chris Barborek** with his 1983 300CDT. Chris bought his coupe in January 2009 for eleven hundred dollars with over 365,000 miles on it. The car was running, but barely.

After failing the state emissions inspection over three times the maximum standard he knew what had to be done. He found an engine with only 125,000 miles on it. With the help of his father at home, they removed the engine and transmission, and completely tore down the replacement engine to replace all seals and gaskets. With the engine and transmission removed they rebuilt the front and rear suspension and performed some body and paint work. Chris spent many hours polishing engine parts and detailing the engine bay, after all this was done the

engine was lowered into its final resting place. With over a year of hard work and late nights, it all paid off when the CD rattled to life.

After a road test and some final adjustments there was only one thing left to do. Join the Mercedes Benz Club! Chris enjoys showing his car at car shows and club events and joined in this years British European Auto Tour where his car performed flawlessly on the back roads of Arizona. Next time you are at a Club event and notice a very clean ivory coupe diesel with euro lights and custom wheels, ask if you can look under the hood. Only then you will appreciate the work Chris has put into this beautiful Mercedes Benz.

Bud Cloninger





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

Save These Dates:

Escape the Heat	Friday, August 12-14, 2011
Training Rallye	Saturday, August 27, 2011
Star Night	Thursday, September 15, 2011
Havasupai '11	Sunday, September 9-11, 2011
Star Night	Thursday, October 20, 2011
Tech Session	Saturday, November 5, 2011
Star Night	Thursday, November 15, 2011
Christmas Party	Sunday, December 4, 2011

Don't Forget to Sign Up for Our
 Regional Event, Havasupai '11 and
 Escape from the Heat!



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