



STAR DUST

May 2011 | Desert Stars Section | Arizona

Join Desert Stars for the Annual Business Meeting

Join your fellow Desert Stars members on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at *Binkley's Restaurant* for our Annual Business Meeting. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. The business portion of this event is brief and consists of Board and Officer Elections. A slate of candidates can be found below.

Binkley's is located at 6920 E. Cave Creek Rd., Cave Creek, Arizona 85331. Kevin and Amy, the owners, have graciously invited us to their restaurant on a day when it is normally closed.

If you are not familiar with the inventive style and artistic boldness of Kevin's cooking you are in for an eye-opening experience.

Slate of Candidates:



The cost is \$47.00 per person and will include a three course lunch and non-alcoholic beverages. Bar service will be available and is the responsibility of the individual.

Please respond early since there is a limit on the number of patrons that can be accommodated. You must indicate your menu choices on the registration form.

If you have any questions please contact Robert Schmelzer at 480-247-3093.

Robert Schmelzer

Section Officers

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

New Director - Class of 2014

Andrew Flynn

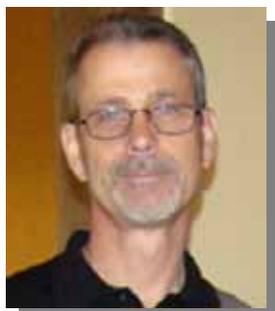
Havasupai '11

Who says we have to cut back on driving? Forget those high gas prices! We'll show you how to enjoy your favorite M-B with a lush, but affordable weekend right here in Metro Phoenix. This year, the Desert Stars will beat oppressive fuel costs while pampering ourselves for two nights at the legendary *Wigwam Resort* in nearby *Litchfield Park*. Noted investor, **Jerry Colangelo**, has just spent millions on a fabulous renovation that will assure one of the most luxurious weekend rallyes in years. Save your spot and get a \$25 discount with a simple \$100 deposit! See page 3 for the registration form. Look forward to the next StarDust for more details. Mark your calendar now!

Chuck Stanford Jr.



President's Message:



So far this year our Desert Stars have had wonderful spring weather and a full events calendar to keep us busy. Defensive Driving, Picnics, Poker Runs, and a couple of Star Nights for good measure. But before the summer heat arrives there are still events that you don't want to miss! The *Memorial Day New Mexico Carlsbad Caverns* trip is a premiere event and should be first on your list. See page three for all the information, but hurry up! Don't be a "Pinhead", as this event fills up fast! The next best bet is the *Annual Business Meeting* on page one. This is our last casual meeting where we select officers and have a wonderful brunch. I hope to see many of you there.

Section board member **Rick Stacio** and I attended MBCA's National Board meeting that was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this April. During the three days of business Rick presented a proposal for our section to host our National Convention or **StarFest** in Phoenix for the Fall of 2012. The proposal was very well received by the National Board and we were instructed to continue with our planning. What a great way to celebrate the **Desert Stars 50th anniversary** (chartered in 1962), and also showcase our **State of Arizona on its 100th Birthday!**

Members from all over the country and Canada will gather in Phoenix for five days of events. From our Nationally acclaimed **Concours d'elegance** to three days of driving events with many exciting activities in between. Our Desert Stars hosted StarFest twenty years ago in 1992, and had the largest turn out of members on record. With much work remaining, I think that StarFest 2012 could be just as successful!

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 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 Star Night is:

Thursday, May 19th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

This month we are going to the Elephant Bar [<http://www.elephantbar.com>] which is located at 7000 East Mayo Blvd. in Phoenix. This restaurant has a moderately priced menu and features a fusion menu of American, European and Asian cooking. We will meet at 6:00 p.m.

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

This month we are going to NOCA [<http://www.restaurantnoca.com>] which is located at 3118 East Camelback in Phoenix. This restaurant has moderately priced fare and we will order from a select menu. We will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Ron Borino

March

Ernest & Ingrid Harazim
Holly Haines
JD Rindt
William Voigt

Welcome New Members



April

V. Benedict
Gary Chase
Randy Pizarro
Walter Strow
Louis Tanico
Michael Taylor

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Desert Stars' Board



- President:**
Bud Cloninger (602) 326-6210
- Vice President:**
Robert Schmelzer (480) 247-3093
- Treasurer:**
Richard Sharp (480) 661-1325
- Secretary:**
Brynn Burton (480) 832-1504
- Immediate Past President:**
Rick Stacio (623) 582-6694
- Directors:**
- Ron Borino (602) 550-9939
 - Jim Boyle (480) 391-1997
 - Don Burton (480) 832-1504
 - Michael Broacston (623) 876-2632
 - Matthew Crawford (480) 704-3456
 - Lou Horwin (480) 707-0320
 - Jim Meece (847) 778-6321
 - Bryan O'Connor (602) 620-4795
 - Rich Schulte (401) 225-2090
 - Chuck Stanford, Jr. (480) 585-0786
 - Rick Stacio (623) 582-6694
- Chairs:**
- Activities & Events:**
John Hutchison (480) 473-4887
- Membership:**
Louis Horwin (480) 707-0320
- Publicity:**
Jim Boyle (480) 391-1997
- Newsletter Advertising:**
Rich Schulte (401) 225-2090
- Newsletter Editor:**
Joseph Esneault (505) 699-7388

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

Memorial Day Holiday Trip!
Southwestern New Mexico & Carlsbad Caverns

Arrangements for this year's Memorial Day trip have been made and we are accepting reservations. As you may recall from previous trips, we must limit the number of cars to about 10, so please get your reservations in early to save your spot.

All Pinheads will meet and stay at the *Palace Hotel* in historic Silver City, New Mexico on Thursday, May 23th. On Friday morning we will drive through part of the Gila National Forest and pass through the ghost towns of Kingston and Hillsboro, then visit White Sands National Monument. On Friday afternoon we will drive along Tularoso Canyon through the Mescalero Apache Reservation (the most feared Indians in the 1800's) and stay in the Lincoln National Forest in Ruidoso on Friday evening. Saturday morning we will visit historic Lincoln and travel on to Roswell to visit the UFO Museum (weeeoh weeeoh). On Saturday afternoon we will take the King's Palace tour at Carlsbad Caverns. On Sunday we are scheduled for the Slaughter Canyon Cave tour and will also have a self-guided tour of the Big Room in the afternoon. If we are fortunate, we may see the flight of the bats leaving the caves at dusk.

Our past Pinheads will tell you what wonderful places we have visited in the past. I think this year will also prove to be a memorable one.

We are taking reservations with a \$100 deposit. We expect these spots to fill quickly, so please fill out the registration form on page 6 and send to Dick Sharp A.S.A.P. If you have questions, please call me at 480-661-1325.

Dick and Mindy Sharp



Havasupai 2011 Pre-Registration Form

Saturday, September 11, 2011

Contact Information:

Name(s): Number Attending:

Address:

City: State/Prov.: Zip:

Email Address: Phone No.:

Send your pre-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 Dick Sharp, 11371 East Cochise Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85259**

6th Annual Family Picnic & Clean Car Show

On a beautiful Saturday morning Desert Stars gathered at *Fountain Park* for our sixth annual Family Picnic and Clean Car Show. Long before most members arrived Executive Chef **Bryan O'Conner** and Sous-Chef **Dee Cloninger** set up the kitchen. They fired up the grill and began to prepare the wonderful array of food to be served. German braut's, specialty burgers, potato salad with many other dishes to complement the best of picnics.

As Members arrived they signed up for the Clean Car Show and the reserved parking area began to fill. With all of the activities scheduled in the park that day our display of Mercedes Benz automobiles drew quite a lot of attention. Many people that were at other events enjoyed our fine cars on display. After a hearty lunch and much conversation, the three best cars were chosen by all the Members present. Below you will find the First, Second and Third place winners of the show. We had a great time and I want to welcome all of the **New Members** that attended! Thanks to **Bryan** and **Dee** for all of their hard work, and to **John Teichgraeber** for the beautiful Fountain Hills venue. I say lets do it again next year!



First Place	Phil Luffy	1960 220SE Cabriolet
Second Place	Tim Hensley	1989 560SL
Third Place	John & Roberta Phin	2011 E350 Coupe

Bud Cloninger



Prepare your Putters!

Desert Stars at Desert Highlands!

Mark your calendars now. Right Now! Plan on joining the Stars on Saturday, May 21st for a great morning of fun, and putting on a 18-hole professional golf course.

Desert Highlands Country Club is located at 10040 E. Happy Valley Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255; East of Pima Road in North Scottsdale.

After the golf, take time for socializing while enjoying a wonderful lunch. Be prepared to laugh, this is not serious golf. Please be there just before 10:00 a.m. so you can choose your lunch and get over to the greens. Soak up the sun and enjoy the million dollar views. Don't forget your putter if you have one!

Registration must be received by May 18th. Cost is \$20.00 per person which includes: coffee, tea, soda, tax and tip included.

See the registration form on page 6 for more details. If you have any questions or wish to donate prizes contact Jim Boyle at 480-391-1997

James 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.

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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(Discount does not apply to interior/exterior protectors and service agreements.)



Registration Forms

Desert Highlands Putting

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Contact Information:

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

The cost is \$20⁰⁰ per person. **Registration must be received my May 18th.** For questions and additional information, contact Jim Boyle 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 Trip to Carlsbad Caverns

Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-30, 2011

Contact Information:

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

Deposit of \$100⁰⁰ per couple. **Limit of 10 couples.** Registrations should be mailed A. S. A. P. Call Dick Sharp for information at 480-661-1325

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**

MBCA Annual Business Meeting

Sunday June 5, 2011

Contact Information:

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

Menu choices:

Circle and indicate how many for multiple attendees

- Choice of: A.** Shrimp Ceviche, mango, avocado, Fresno chile, Daikon and cilantro,-or-
- B.** Butter Lettuce Salad, chevre, blackberries, cornbread croutons, Banyuls vinaigrette.
- Choice of: C.** Jidori Chicken breast, braised leg, polenta, broccoli with horseradish,-or-
- D.** Tomato Water Risotto, summer squash, cherry tomatoes, green onion and Parmesan.
- Choice of: E.** Peaches & Cream, candied mint with pistachio,-or-
- F.** Chocolate Mousse, vanilla crème fraiche with raspberries.

A	or	B
C	or	D
E	or	F

The cost is \$47 per person. **Please respond early since there is a limit on the number of patrons that can be accommodated. You must indicate your menu choices on this registration form.**

Call Robert Schmelzer for availability at (480) 247-3093

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**

British Euro Auto Tour

Keeping up with the B.E.A.T.

Although the *British Euro Auto Tour* is not a Mercedes-Benz Club event it still holds its own as a wonderful get-away through some of the most scenic areas in central Arizona.

For this 14th annual ride participants readied their vehicles in anticipation for this two day auto rallye event. Every beautifully represented car from Deutschland and the surrounding European countries attended. With over 22 different marques this event had a wonderful turnout. Summed up with a sentence from their website, "the B.E.A.T. represents the largest multi-marque driving event in the Southwest where owners can mingle with other drivers of a different marque." This is the roots of the event to share camaraderie with new and old friends, all while sharing stories on these beloved vehicles.

Participants began the tour in north Phoenix meeting right off I-17. Eager car enthusiasts exchanged stories in the hustle before starting their engines. Registered participants of the event received a grab-bag of goodies to commemorate this years Tour.

The convoy headed out towards Wickenburg, our first stop of the day, for coffee and donuts. Followed shortly after for a drive through Joshua Tree National Forest and towards 89 up to Prescott. The landscape was phenomenal as lines of all makes and models of European cars sped down the hot asphalt towards our next stop in Prescott.

As we rolled into town we were lined up along Prescott's famed Whiskey Row. B.E.A.T. is the only car organization that forces a closure to this most popular street.



Participants had quite a warm welcome from the community. Exchanging stories, showing off engines, and what makes each of their cars unique.

After a hearty lunch we loaded back into our rides and prepared for our drive up towards Mingus Mountain and around the switchbacks towards Jerome. Out over the gorgeous landscape was our next stop at Dead Horse Ranch. This was a short stop

at one of Arizona's State Parks where participants had their picture taken and a series of contests were held for an award ceremony that evening.

One by one each car decided to make the final plunge down the 89A to cruise downtown Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon.



The days ride ended at Little America in Flagstaff. All were able to get out and stretch after the long journey. Food and a cash bar were provided while participants enjoyed more of each others company.

The traveling car show returned to Phoenix via Strawberry, Pine and Payson early Sunday afternoon. All with aspirations for next year.

For more information pertaining to the B.E.A.T., and how you can be involved, please visit their website at www.beataz.com.

Joseph Esneault





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Borrego Springs

Our Desert Stars were represented well at this year's Southwestern Regional event in Borrego Springs, California. Well over fifty members from all over the Southwest gathered at the Borrego Springs resort for a challenging weekend.

Saturday morning we lined our cars up for our first event, a Gymkhana. We had to negotiate an autocross course and parallel park in the middle. This was a very tight box that most of the larger cars really had to work at.

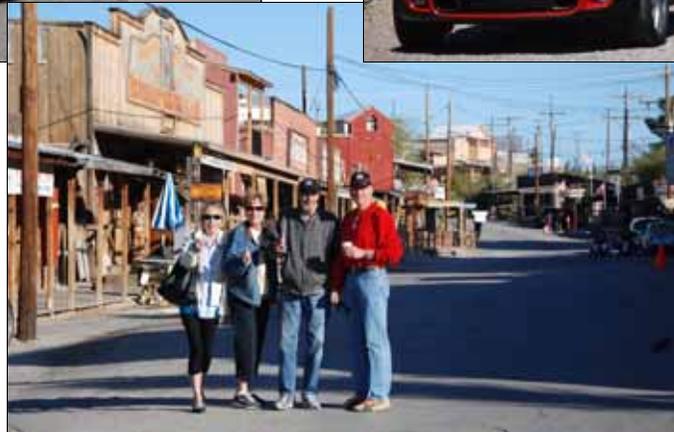
After completing the course and receiving our times, we were sent off on a rallye around the beautiful surrounding countryside. Returning back later in the afternoon everyone

enjoyed the Resorts amenities and met up for the Mercedes Memorabilia contest and Awards Dinner later that evening. Everyone voted for the Mercedes memorabilia on display while having a great dinner. When awards were announced our Desert Stars did very well. Taking home two First Place trophies. **John Hutchison** and **Ron Borino** took home the First Place award for the Rallye. I also took home a First Place award for the Memorabilia showing. We all had an action packed weekend with a lot of fun and camaraderie. Definitely a "Must Do" next year!

Bud Cloninger



Route 66 Photos!





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

Save These Dates:

Star Night	Thursday, May 19, 2011
Desert Highlands Lunch & Putting	Saturday, May 21, 2011
Memorial Day Holiday Trip – Carlsbad Caverns	Thursday, May 26-31, 2011
Annual Business Meeting	Sunday, June 5, 2011
Star Night	Thursday, June 16, 2011
Star Night	Thursday, August 18, 2011
Escape the Heat	Friday, August 19-21, 2011
Havasupai '11	Sunday, September 11, 2011
Tech Session	Saturday, November 5, 2011

Don't Forget to Pre-Register for Havasupai 2011 and Get \$25 Off! – See More Details on Page 3



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