



Desert Stars Tackle Defensive Driving

Do your defensive driving skills need a little tune up? Do you know how your car handles in an emergency? Would you like to learn to drive more confidently? Please join us on Saturday January 28, 2012 starting at 9:00 am for the Desert Stars Defensive Driving Course. Members, immediate family, and especially teens, are eligible for this event.

Understanding the handling capabilities of your car will develop your confidence and help make you a safer driver. You will get a chance to perform evasive maneuvers and learn accident avoidance strategies in a closed course with driving instructors. Both new and experienced drivers can benefit from the instructors in this event as well as gain additional confidence.



The event will be held at the new *Octane Raceway* (formerly F1 Race Factory) on 48th Street just south of Washington Street. in Phoenix. *Octane Raceway's* address is 317 South 48th Street. Our instructors will be **Walt Anderson**, **Dick Sharp** and **Bud Cloninger**.

The club will have a restricted and marked circuit, protected from other traffic. Some basic instruction will be provided and each driver will receive personal in-car instruction to learn the handling characteristics of their car. Learning how to safely maintain control of their vehicle in an emergency as well as honing your ability to drive around trouble in a variety of situations. Participants are encouraged to bring the vehicle they drive daily - even if it is not a M-B.

The cost is \$30 for club members, but licensed drivers under 18 are free if accompanied by a paying parent MBCA member. The club will provide refreshments and lunch at Octane's indoor *Trackside Grill*. After lunch the outdoor track will be reconfigured to let the participants practice some of the maneuvers they have learned. We will end the day around 3 pm.

We can only accommodate the first thirty two (32) people who register for this popular event due to the limited availability of instructors and facilities. Please use the entry form on page 6.

If you have any questions please contact Dick Sharp (480) 661-1325 or Bud Cloninger (602)326-6210

Ron Borino

Join MBCA Members for the January Auto Auctions

January will bring a fantastic selection of car connoisseur events to the Valley of the Sun and, once again, the Desert Stars and guests will be joining in the fun. Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 21, 2012 when we'll visit one of the finest collector auto auctions and get a close-up view of classic Mercedes-Benz happenings.

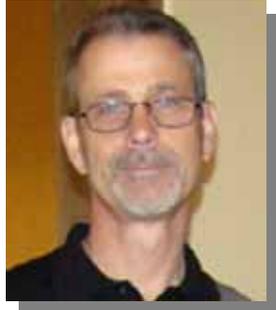
Desert Stars' board member **Bob Yoder** is arranging for special entry to the Gooding & Company Auction, held at the Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall (northwest corner of the parking lot on 68th St, north of Camelback Road). Last year's auction saw frenzied bidding that resulted in a 1962 300SL Roadster netting \$950,000! This year, we'll take an insider's tour with a Gooding & Company auction guide. Call **Bob** at (480) 510-8210 for more information.

Following the auction, we'll move a few short blocks away to

the *Wildfish Seafood Grille* at 7135 East Camelback for cocktails and dinner. This part of the day will connect Desert Stars and auction goers from other MBCA sections with speakers and experts on restoration, your favorite classics and current legislative initiatives affecting our driving pastime. We'll also have time to meet one-on-one with our speakers. Dinner will begin around 6:00 for those who choose not to attend the auction tour. Valet or free underground covered parking is available at the restaurant. Cost will be \$60 per person for the day's events, including the auction tour, dinner, taxes and gratuities (no host bar). To assure your place, complete the reservation form on page 3 or, for more information, call **Chuck Stanford** at (602) 549-4789. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chuck Stanford Jr.

President's Message:



Happy New Year and welcome to 2012! I would also like to also wish our Desert Stars happy birthday. The Desert Stars section was officially chartered in December of 1962 just six years after the Mercedes Benz Club of America was formed in Chicago, Il and Summit, NJ. Things have changed a bit in fifty years. The Desert Stars started out with fewer than twenty-five members, and now have over four hundred and twenty. A 300 SL sold for about \$8,960 and the new roadster of today will cost you over 100,000. A cup of coffee down at the F. W. Woolworths lunch counter cost you ten cents in 1962. Today you will pay two dollars and fourteen cents for a tall drip (cup of coffee) at Starbucks. That of course doesn't include 9.3% sales tax we pay today. A little nostalgia is good but I believe the best days are ahead of us. Members are staying in touch in real time on Facebook. We can get our newsletter electronically over the Internet so we can keep up to date with the latest news. Our section will host StarFest this year that will bring members from throughout the United States to our desert paradise, and enjoy all things Mercedes Benz. I am sending an invitation to all to join me in celebrating our 50th year. 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, February 16th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

It's cold outside so let's heat this month up by heading to Jalapeno Inferno. This is a locally owned and operated restaurant located in the north Scottsdale area serving made-from-scratch Sonoran Mexican cuisine. The restaurant is located at 23587 North Scottsdale Road in Scottsdale. Their phone number is 480-585-6442 and web address is www.jalapenoinferno.com. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. RSVP's must be received by the 14th of February.

Thursday, March 15th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Does award winning wood fired pizza and handmade pasta trip your trigger? Then let's head to the 2011 Food Network's Choice "Best Pizza in Arizona" winner. That would be The Parlor Pizzeria located at 1916 East Camelback Road, Phoenix. Their phone number is 602-248-2480 and web address is <http://www.theparlor.us>. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. RSVP's must be received by the 13th of March. The restaurant does not take formal reservations but will seat us in the same area to the best of their ability.

Ron Borino

November

- Sonny Dienias
- John Freise
- Don Anderson
- Don French

Welcome New Members



December

- Thomas & Christie Grosskoph
- Jeff & May Jo Liborio
- Dorene Fredette
- Jerry Mitchell
- Deborah & Ron Rietman
- Karl Roosa

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Desert Stars' Board



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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.

Are You Lucky or Smart?
Ante Up for this Year's Poker Run!

Back by popular demand Bob Yoder, the godfather of Poker Runs once again has his hand in this event. This year he has set a course for the far east valley. This will take members from the base of the McDowell Mountains, to east Mesa and back. Be prepared to visit some out-of-the-way places and receive a lesson on Arizona in the old west. Answer some questions along the way and you may be able to pick another card to help your poker hand. But as you know, all questions aside, it's the best hand that wins. That is if Bob hasn't stacked the deck! Please join us Saturday February, 18th for a short day of fun. Cost will be \$30.00 that will include a late lunch and all museum entry fees. Don't be late! Send in the entry form today! To find out the starting point or call Bob or Bud.

Bob Yoder (480) 510-8210 Bud Cloninger (602) 326-6210

Bud Cloninger & Bob Yoder



Last Year's Poker Run Winner, Ed Kasmar

Auction Dinner

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Contact Information:

Name(s): Number Attending:

Address:

City: State/Prov.: Zip:

Email Address: Phone No.:

The cost is \$60⁰⁰ per person. For questions and additional information, contact Chuck Stanford at (602) 549-4789

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

Don't Miss the Desert Stars' Family Picnic And Clean Car Show!

What's the best way to enjoy a Mercedes? That would be on a lazy warm day with other members all in the beautiful setting of Fountain Park. So, come and join others Saturday, March 24th, 2012 at Fountain Hills Park in downtown Fountain Hills.

We will have a great picnic menu with plenty of good food – bratwursts, hot dogs, hamburgers, grilled fish, German potato salad and plenty of beer, soft drinks and water. Members will display their cars and all present will pick the ones they like the best. It doesn't have to be a classic or even the newest to win an award.

This is always a great time to reconnect with other section members and show off your Mercedes. Our event hosts will be **Bud Cloninger**, and **Bryan O'Connor**, who will be doing most of the cooking. The bratwurst hits the grills at 9:30 so don't be late.

New members are especially urged to attend. Those members, who joined the Section after February 2012, will be hosted free. This includes spouses 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 their V.I.P. number at the top of the registration form and mail it in. All children under 12 years of age are also free. All others are \$20.00 per person.

Mark this date on your calendar now because this is the most attended event of the year and you don't want to miss out! A beautiful picnic in the park with friends and family, it just doesn't get any better than this. You will find the registration form on page 6, so be sure to register early..

Contact Bud at (602) 326-6210 or Bryan at (602) 620-4795 with any questions.

Bryan O'Connor

Proposed By-Law Change

In order to provide more flexibility to the Board in scheduling the annual meeting and allow for a date prior to the period when many of our members retreat to summer homes out of state or away from the valley, the Board of Directors proposes that the Bylaws be amended. The amendment to be presented to the membership at our 2012 Annual meeting would read as follows, with the change shown in bold:

Article III, Section B, Paragraph 1. shall be amended to read as follows: **The election of Officers and Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting which shall be held during the months of May or June on a day to be designated each year by the Board.**

Bud Cloninger

Join Desert Stars for Putting and Lunch at Desert Highlands!

Mark your calendars now. Right Now! Plan on joining the Stars on Saturday March 31st for a great morning of fun, and putting on a 18 hole professional course. After golf, take time for socializing and a great lunch. Be prepared to laugh, this is not serious golf. Please arrive a little before 9:00am so you can choose your lunch from the menu and get over to the greens. Take your time and enjoy the million dollar views. Don't forget your putter, if you have one.

Registration must be received by March 26th, Cost is \$20.00 per person - coffee, tea, soda, tax and tip included. See the registration form on page 6 for details. If you have any questions or wish to donate prizes contact Jim Boyle at (480)391-1997.

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

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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Registration FormsDefensive Driving Course

Saturday, January 28, 2012

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

The cost is \$30 per person. Licensed drivers under 19 are free if accompanied with a paying parent/MBCA Member.
Any questions call Dick Sharp (480) 661-1325 or 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**

Poker Run

Saturday, February 18, 2012

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

The cost is \$30⁰⁰ per person. Registrations should be mailed by **February 1st**, after that date call Bob Yoder (480) 510-8210 or Bud Cloninger (602) 326-6210 for availability and questions.

**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**

Family Picnic and Clean Car Show

Saturday, March 24, 2012

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

The cost is \$20⁰⁰ per person. For questions and additional information, contact Bud Cloninger at (602) 326-6210 or Bryan O'Connor at (602) 620-4795. New members after February call Lou Horwin at (480) 707-0320
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

Holiday Party Wrap-Up

Awarding Service

Members and guests enjoyed another fabulous Brunch at *FireRock Country Club* on Sunday, December 4, 2011. After presenting a slide show of the past years events **Chuck Stanford** awarded service pins to the following members in attendance: **Dick & Mindy Sharp** for 25 years, **Don & Brynn Burton** and **Betty Pottorff** for 20 years, and **Thomas Grohmann** for 10 years.

Regional Director **Steve Ross** made a short speech and awarded Bud Cloninger the Southwest Region's "Officer of the Year" award. With the entire members' generous toy donations gathered up, **Deborah Ichiyama** delivered a GLK full of toys to the Scottsdale Fire Department's, "Toys for Tots" program, topping off a wonderful event.

Robert Schmelzer



Ron & Rhonda Borino were 2011's Members of the Year

Bud Cloninger then announced the 2012 Desert Stars Member of the Year, **Ron and Rhonda Borino**. Last years Member of the Year **Chuck Stanford** passed on the newly restored **Loy Peterson** traveling SSK award for them to keep until next years Holiday party. In a surprise to most, **MBCA**



Bud receiving Officer of the Year award from Steve Ross



Chuck Stanford giving out service pins to Dick & Mindy Sharp



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or email @ rschulte@DesertStars.org



Vintage Mercedes Benz ad, circa 1926. Showing both auto companies logo's; signifying Diamler's 1901 Mercedes and Karl Benz's 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagon. The merger was complete!

Mercedes-Benz Tech Session

On Saturday November 26th thirty Desert Star members gathered to learn more about comfort features of their Mercedes Benz. First, Ed Riddle from Mercedes Benz of Chandler gave us a "walk around" a new 2012 E350 and showed members all of the new features. He took us from bumper to bumper, and we discussed all of the newest innovations that Mercedes has incorporated into their 2012 cars. We then went on to talk about automatic door locks. From the old vacuum controlled key locks up to the newest radio and infrared systems that will close your windows, sunroof and set your anti-theft alarm. After a catered BBQ lunch members learned about cruise control and how that system evolved from a basic throttle control on the highway to the highly sophisticated Distronic cruise control we have today. A system that almost drives the car by itself! And speaking of driving itself, **Robert Schmelzer** donated his CLS 550 to show

us how Mercedes Benz Parking Assist works. After a brief discussion of the radar and camera systems involved in Park Assist we tested it. Sure enough the car steered itself perfectly into a parallel parking spot! I can only imagine what future systems that we will have on our cars. But if you can imagine it, you can be sure that Mercedes will have it.

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:

Scottsdale Auctions Enthusiasts Dinner	Saturday, January 22, 2012
Defensive Driving Clinic & Autocross	Saturday, January 29, 2012
Star Night	Thursday, February 17, 2012
Poker Run	Saturday, February 19, 2012
Star Night	Thursday, March 15, 2012
Family Picnic and Clean Car Show	Saturday, March 24, 2012
Putting and Lunch at Desert Highlands	Saturday, March 26, 2012
The British European Auto Tour	Weekend of April 16 – 17, 2012

Try Your Hand at Our Annual Poker Run and Meet New Members at Our Family Picnic! These both will be great events!



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