



Now Registering for StarFest® 2012 Reserve Early and Save!

Followers of the StarFest® 2012 website already know it, but registration is now available, and it's online. That's right. No more paper forms to fill out. No more checkbooks to find. No more envelopes to address, stuff, stamp and mail. Just go to www.starfest2012.com, click "Register Now" and with a few clicks and your credit card, you're ready for the excitement of StarFest 2012 in Phoenix this fall. All the prices will be presented to you before you have to make any selections and you can suspend or terminate your registration at any time prior to submitting your payment.

Registration fees are grouped into "pre-bundled" savings packages but Members may also select and pay for a number of activities individually. Package options include the Basic Package, designed for MBCA Members, Associate Members and their guests. The Basic Package includes the welcome reception, rallye, admission to all seminars, credentials, a Sponsor gift bag and much, much more. Members can select either the Concours d'Elegance Package, the Driving Package or the Complete StarFest Package. These packages combine the most commonly attended activities and offer significant savings versus registering for activities separately. These savings Packages, as well as separate events, are explained in detail on the website.

MotorSportReg.com runs the registration site and the first time you use it, they will collect profile information. Please enter your MBCA membership number and your name as it appears on your MBCA membership card so we can verify your membership. Also, entering the Mercedes-Benz vehicles you plan to bring to StarFest 2012 will simplify your registration. Although we hope we will not need it during your visit to Phoenix, please fill out your emergency contact information. MotorSportReg.com also runs advertising in the right-hand column on all pages. Neither the MBCA nor

the Desert Stars Section endorses or recommends any of these advertisers.

Once you have registered for StarFest 2012, a confirmation page will appear with your StarFest 2012 registration details and a Group Code, which you will use when you register at the Arizona Biltmore. You will also receive a confirmation email with the same information. Both the confirmation page and email will include the Biltmore's toll-free number and a link to their reservations website. Just fill out the dates of your stay and enter the Group Code into the second box on the right side of the page. We have negotiated an exceptional rate of

\$169 per night per room; a savings of 35% (their standard rack rate is \$259). Additionally, the

Biltmore has waived its normal resort fee for our group, which includes admittance to the Spa & Fitness Center and many other benefits. Make sure you get this rate by using the Group Code. This rate is guaranteed for our group from September 25-October 5, 2012; so why not extend your stay and enjoy the Greater Phoenix and Arizona weather and everything else we have to offer! To help with your trip planning, we've added a page full of links to unique points of interest in the greater Phoenix area.

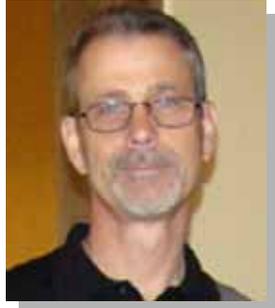
Just go to www.starfest2012.com and hover over the "PLANNING" button in the upper right-hand corner; then select "Helpful Links."

Exciting news for Concours d'Elegance attendees! Wayne Carini, as seen on "Chasing Classic Cars," has accepted our invitation to attend StarFest 2012. He will be our Concours Awards banquet speaker and will be involved with all the Concours d'Elegance activities. He is teaming up with us for a special "Concours Autism Research Fundraiser" on Sunday, September 30.



Lisa Juhl

President's Message:



With the sun directly overhead and the temperatures in the triple digits around most of the country, we can be assured that summer has arrived. Looking at the weather reports it seems that most of the country is either setting records, or on fire! Our National Business Office in Colorado Springs had to be temporarily shut down and a few of our members evacuated from their homes. With the Waldo fire almost contained, I am glad to say that they have returned to intact homes. Unfortunately many others in that area were not so lucky.

On a lighter note, a troop of Desert Stars met at *Firebird Raceway* to finalize preparations for driving events at StarFest

2012. We met with track officials and laid out plans for the autocross course, time trials and acceleration runs. We also surveyed the vendor, food and meeting areas to make sure driving events at StarFest are full of fun and excitement. If you have been putting off registering, the time is now! Even if it's a basic registration, you will have access to the welcome reception, Concours d'Elegance at the Biltmore, all driving events at Firebird, technical sessions, vendor and sponsor exhibits and the list goes on! So don't be late, and join the hundreds of other members from across the country who have already signed up for this spectacular five day event. Visit www.starfest2012.com on the web or contact our registration chairperson at 808-282-5249 to get a front row seat for the Mercedes Benz Club of America's premier national event, StarFest.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Desert Stars Board Members for their service, and welcome the four new members that have stepped in to fill their positions. All of these members have volunteered their time to advance our section to where it is today. I can't thank them enough.

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

Retiring Desert Stars Board Members

Rick Stacio, Don Burton, Rich Schulte, Ron Borino

New Desert Stars Board Members

Debbie & Mark Ichiyama, Roberta & John Phin

*Bud Cloninger, President
Desert Stars Section*

Welcome New Members

May

Marco Chavez
Doug Cranmer
John Demoss
Ray Janus
Dennis & Candida
Martin
Rex Mazonowicz

Andre Monette
John Pearson
Fritz & Erika Saleika
Lorraine Simons
John Walker
Joan & Elliot Walsey



June

Michael Ince
Craig Kingston
Peter Manzella
Nick Polydoros
Steve Schroeder
David Underwood
Alexandra Venneri
Gary & Arlene Wahlert

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Desert Stars' Board



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Bud Cloninger	(602) 326-6210
Vice President:	
Robert Schmelzer	(480) 247-3093
Treasurer:	
Richard Sharp	(480) 661-1325
Secretary:	
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Rich Schultz	(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.

Star Nights

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 rbcrino@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 following Star Nights are as listed:

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

Italian night at *Mia Francesca* in north Scottsdale for a summer event. *Mia Francesca* is located at Market Street at DC Ranch or 20825 North Pima Road, Space H-110 in Scottsdale, 85255. Their phone number is (480) 535-5800 and web address www.miafrancesca.com. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. **RSVP's must be received by Ron Borino by the 14th of August.** Please do not call the restaurant to make a reservation it will just confuse them.

Thursday, September 20th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Last summer we all had nice time at Gianfranco's Ristorante. Let's meet there again. The restaurant is located 10435 East Jomax Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85356. Their phone number is (480) 585-696 and their web site is www.gianfrancos.com. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. **RSVP's must be received by the 18th of September.** Please do not call the restaurant to make a reservation.

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

The nights should be cool enough that we will try El Charro in Paradise Valley. El Charro is located 5550 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253. Their phone number is (480) 948-5170 and they can be found on the web at www.elcharro.com. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. **RSVP to Ron Borino only by the 16th of October.**

Ron Borino

Annual Business Meeting

Members enjoyed the food and atmosphere at the Annual meeting held June 3rd at Seasons 52 Restaurant in Phoenix. The officers elected to serve for the coming year are **Bud Cloninger**, President; **Robert Schmelzer**, Vice President; **Dick Sharp**, treasurer and **Don Burton**, Secretary. In addition, the new Directors to serve until 2015 are **Mark & Debbie Ichiyama** and **John & Roberta Phin**. (See event pictures on page 9).

Robert Schmelzer

StarFest Update

To date, we have over 200 attendees registered for StarFest 2012 from 40 different MBCA Sections, and 45 cars for the Concours d'Elegance. Half of our allotted rooms at the Biltmore Hotel have been reserved and we still have two months to go. StarFest historians tell us that a large number of procrastinators will come on board at the last minute; don't wait too long or there might not be any rooms left at the Inn.

Recent additions to the board have been **Don & Brynn Burton** who are to plan and organize the tech sessions. **Pete TeKampe** will be our new sponsorship chair and will be responsible for keeping our existing sponsors well aware of our event planning activities and for soliciting additional ones to help with our funding. **Deb Ichiyama** to handle coordination of the program booklet with our outside professional publications experts in addition to her duties as registrar. **Robert Schmelzer** has stepped in to the hospitality chair from his prior position as associate chair; and myself to fill in as the event chair.

Bi-weekly board meetings are filled with tracking registrations, deciding on shirt and hat designs for the Concours d'Elegance judges, watching the budget, drumming up new sponsors, making sure that the program booklet is on track, and a multitude of other tasks that will aid in ensuring a successful National MBCA event. This past meeting we placed an order for the judges uniforms, viewed a number of past issues of the event program bulletin, viewed a sample of the grill badge and placed an order for their production and received an update on the Concours and possible additional cars to be registered. We are still waiting for a listing of the pre-war cars that the Classic Center in Irvine will be bringing, but may not have that information until late August after the Pebble Beach Legends of the Autobahn Concours

For those of you that missed the May 19 registration deadline which guaranteed a copy of the Grill Badge in your "goody bag", please be aware that we will have a limited number of extra copies of the Badge for purchase when you sign in on September 28. Don't hesitate to do an "impulse buy" when you see them they will go fast.



Volunteers to assist in Hospitality, Concours, Driving Events, Registration, Rallye, Judging and other event activities at both the Biltmore location and the Firebird Raceway are still needed. Being a volunteer is a great opportunity for you to meet and work with other MBCA members from across the country. Please contact Debbie Ichiyama at dichiyama@me.com if you would like to help; let her know if you have a preference and we will do our best to accommodate your requirements.

For those Desert Stars members that have not yet signed up for StarFest 2012, now is the time to register along with the forty or more that are already on the books; fourteen Concours cars will be shown from our contingent! We need your participation and assistance to make StarFest 2012 equal or better than our showing in 1992.

John Hutchison

Volunteer for StarFest2012!

Volunteers will help and assist in Star Fest activities and planning, including Hospitality, Concours, Driving Events, Registration, Rallye, Publicity and Sponsorship. Events will take place at the *Biltmore Resort* and the *Firebird Raceway*.

StarFest runs from Sept. 28th to Oct. 3rd.

Hosting StarFest is a great honor for the Desert Stars section which is celebrating its 50th anniversary during Arizona's Centennial Anniversary. Being a volunteer is a great opportunity to meet and work with other section members and other MBCA members from all over the country.

Please contact Debbie at dichiyama@me.com if you would like to help and be sure to visit www.starfest2012.com on the web. Also, check us out on Facebook and don't forget to "Like" us!

Debbie Ichiyama



	<p>cab-ri-o-let [kab-re-uh-ley] - noun an automobile resembling a coupe, but with a folding top.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.

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Past StarFest Photographs





Never been?
There will never be a better time.



You don't need to be a "veteran" of Concours d'Elegance to win one. You *will* need peacock-pride in your Mercedes, an appreciation for luxurious outdoor settings and an optimism that you could drive away with a distinctive (and often unexpected) award. Don't let the French translation, "competition of elegance," steer you away. At our September 29-30 Concours, you can have your Mercedes judged in a class of cars of the same model (sedans vs sedans; SUVs vs SUVs, etc) for its condition, cleanliness and authenticity. Register your vehicle in advance. Scintillating. Star-Studded. And only at StarFest® 2012.

Warning: This event may not be suitable for the camera-shy. At StarFest® 2012, you and your Mercedes will be idolized by hundreds of spectators, MBCA Members, their guests and the local media. So bring your Benz. Movie-star sunglasses optional.

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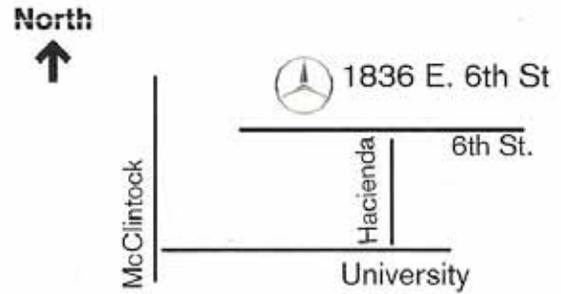
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The Annual Business Meeting at Seasons 52



Left: As you can see its not all business. Desert Stars members sit and enjoy the atmosphere while waiting for lunch to be served.



Left: Rebecca and Matt Crawford chat with John Hutchinson



Rich Shulte receives an award for his service on the board.



What a great group! If you missed out this year make sure to come next, as I am sure it will be at another wonderful restaurant.



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, August 16, 2012
Escape From the Heat	(Canceled due to StarFest Preparations
Star Night	Thursday, September 20, 2012
STARFEST2012	Friday, September 28 - October 3, 2012
Star Night	Thursday, October 18, 2012
Tech Session	Saturday, November 3, 2012
Holiday Party	Sunday, December 2, 2012

Remember to tell all Mercedes-Benz owners and friends about StarFest2012!! Hosted here in Phoenix!



[Visit our section website at www.DesertStars.org](http://www.DesertStars.org)