



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

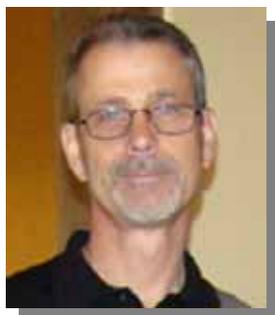
Desert Stars Slate of Officers and Directors

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

New Director – Class of 2015

Mark & Debbie Ichiyama
John & Roberta Phin

President's Message:



I would like to welcome **Peter Lessler**, past President and MBCA's Concours judge to the valley. Many thanks to both Peter and **Chuck Stanford** for holding the Concours judging class. The classes held focused in on judging all parts of our cars, old or new. Just having a clean car is not enough when a Concours judge is at work. Authenticity also counts for many points a car may receive in the judging process. I would also like to thank **Craig Zielinski** and the staff at *Schumacher European* for providing the shop and classroom space for this event. If you are thinking of registering for StarFest the time is now. The early bird cut off date is May 19th and you don't want to miss the 5% discount and the custom StarFest grill badge you will receive! Although you can still register up to the

date of the event, it would be sweet to save a little money and come home with a unique one of a kind souvenir!

Go to www.starfest2012.com or call our registration Chair, **Debbie Ichiyama** at 1(808)282-5249 today. Last but not least don't forget about the Desert Stars annual business meeting. This is not all meeting. It is a great place to meet and socialize with other members to find out what's going on in your club. With a wonderful lunch of course!

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

Bud Cloninger, President

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 17th beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Let's go Italian? We tried Brio in the Scottsdale Quarter for brunch a couple of years ago. Let's give it a try for dinner. Brio is located at 15301 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale 85254. Their phone number is 480-607-1100 and they can be found on the web at <http://www.brioitalian.com> We will meet at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Ron Borino by the 16th of May.

Ron Borino

Welcome New Members

March

- Keith Dolgaard
- Dave & Wanda Fleming
- Charles Gonzales
- Brian Hackett
- Jody & Jim Hardwick
- Michael Hirschman
- John Howland
- Mario & Verda Orellana
- Jennifer Roberts



April

- Bill Grazner
- Bojan Savic
- Dr. Sharon Taylor
- Joan & Elliot Walsey

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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.

Putting Highlights

A smaller than usual group of Desert Stars met at Desert Highlands golf course to do battle on the putting greens this year. That said, the competition was as intense as I have ever seen it. Word has it that a few "ringers" signed up to be Desert Stars just to receive our coveted first place award. So until I see them at another event, I will continue to believe this. New members **Bob and Elaine Shower** managed to come in first and second, with Elaine making a hole in one for good measure. Another new member **Dave Fleming** shared third place with **Joe Lee** to round out the day. Great fun, and great people. I can't wait to do this again next year!

Bud Cloninger



Annual Business Meeting

Save the Date: June 3. This year the meeting will be held at *Seasons 52*, located at 2502 East Camelback Road. Plan on arriving at 11:00 a.m. for pre-lunch, wine or cocktails, followed by lunch and a brief business meeting. Cost will be \$35.00 per person which includes lunch and non alcoholic beverages.

Lunch will consist of an Organic Mixed Greens Salad, your choice of Cedar Plank Salmon, Chef's Market Vegetable Plate or Wood-Roasted Pork Tenderloin followed by a Mini Indulgence Dessert.

Additional information regarding the event and the agenda for the business meeting will appear in the next issue of the StarDust.

Robert Schmelzer



Memorial Day Trip 2012!

We will be taking a guided tour of the Hopi reservation over Memorial Day weekend, starting May, 25-28.

The Hopis live in pueblo villages on small isolated mesas. The mesas are steep sided and have great views. The Pueblo Oraibi started in 1050 and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited villages in North America.

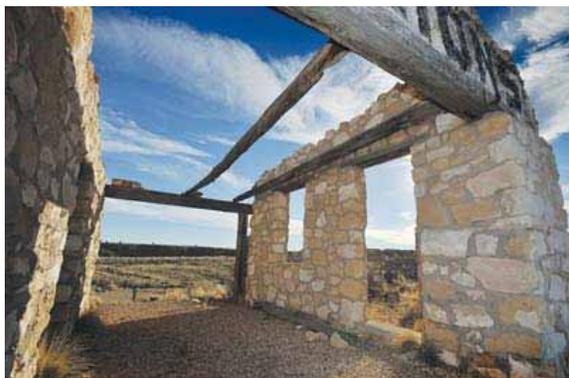
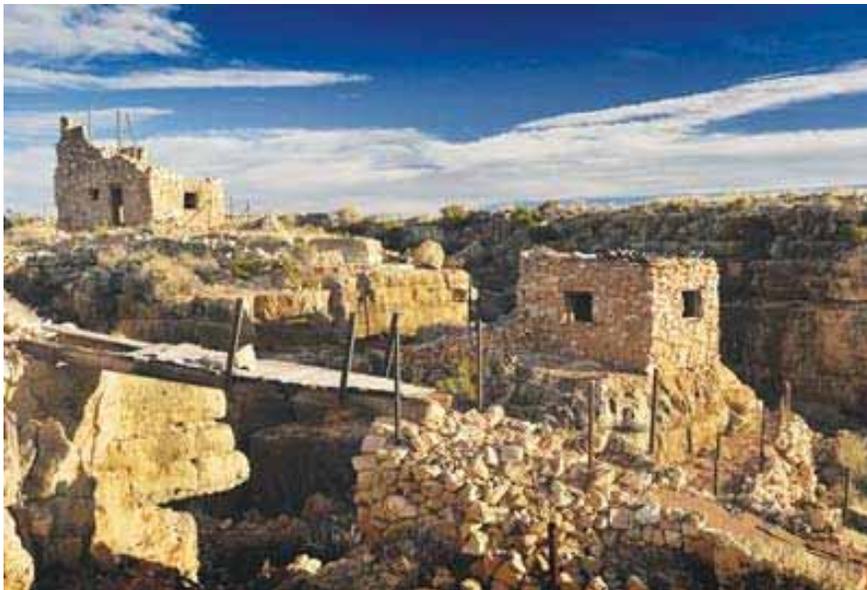
We will also visit *Rock Art Ranch* a privately owned cattle ranch which has some of the finest Anasazi petroglyph sites in the Southwest. The ranch also displays a large collection of Anasazi pots and has a collection of cowboy and pioneer artifacts.

To reach the ranch we will have to travel on a gravel road so bring your SUV or Benz beater.

We should have enough 4 door vehicles signed up so we can carpool to the ranch.

We will be staying at the *La Pasada* in Winslow; plus a motel yet to be determined.

We are asking for a \$100 deposit which may not be refundable due to deposits and cancellation polices. We are limited to 19 people at this time so get your deposit in early! Call Dick Sharp at (480) 661-1325 for availability and questions.



Dick Sharp

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>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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Registration FormsMemorial Day Trip

Starting Friday, May 25-28, 2012

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

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required. Registrations should be mailed A.S.A.P., after that date call Dick Sharp at (480) 661-1325 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**

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, June 3, 2012

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

The cost is \$35 per person. Registrations must be received A.S.A.P.

Any questions call Robert Schmelzer 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**



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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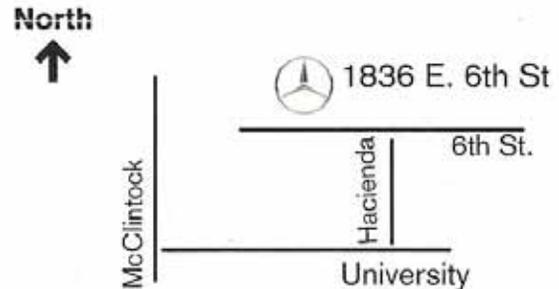
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or email @ rschulte@DesertStars.org

The British European Auto Tour 2012

With a yellow Lotus Elise on my rear bumper around the dozens of switchback turns and twisters over Mingus Mountain on the way to Jerome, we finally slowed thru Jerome, then pulled into the gas station at Clarkdale and said, Wow! What a ride! While awaiting **Dick Sharp** and his V8 powered '65 Mercedes 250se to catch up, the Lotus driver said that was his fastest Mingus Mt. ride into Jerome ever. Mine too, I added. When Dick arrived, we headed into Cottonwood for some refreshing ice-cream.

Although two of my 500SL's were in the BEAT, my fast ride was a BMW Z8 Alpina. The Tour was great, beginning in Phoenix, then into Wickenburg for a light breakfast.

Heading out of Wickenburg north on 93, we then turned onto 97 and encountered, would you believe, hundreds of bicyclists having a race along Rt.97.



After a few miles of 15mph driving, we found a passing area long enough to pass the bikers and play catch-me-if-you-can. Next was a pit-stop at the Kirkland Junction bar where throwing a dollar bill on the bar to use the rest room facility is traditional, as it was time for the Wickenburg coffee to exit. Next stop was Prescott's Whiskey Row for a three hour car show, lunch and shopping stop. After lunch, the fun began heading for Jerome

(see above), then toward Sedona and the Little America Resort in Flagstaff for the night.



Although the Triumph Club boasted about 20 cars, the Mercedes count was about 12 entries. Gee, maybe we should insist Desert Stars to drive "three-pointed-star" cars.

Among the unusual autos entered were a McLaren MP4-12C, a Morgan Aero 8, an Audi R8 V10 Spyder and a Smart car driven by fellow cyclist Mark Miller, who boasted that he passed several cars, but I later learned that those cars were

indeed parked. Desert Star participants enjoying the BEAT were **Pete/Eva Cienciala, Claude Baker, Steve Woody, Dick Sharp, Rodney/Savanna Sparks, Wm.Kiviat, John/Leslie Miller, L.Foster, Elaine Petrick** and myself.

Bob Yoder

P.S. Next year, let's outgun the Triumph Club!





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 17, 2012
Memorial Day Trip	Friday, May 25-28th, 2012
Annual Business Meeting	Sunday, June 3, 2012
Star Night	Thursday, June 21, 2012
Escape From the Heat	Friday, August 17-19, 2012
STARFEST2012	Friday, September 28 - October 3, 2012
Tech Session	Saturday, November 3, 2012

Gear Up for Escape From the Heat!

August 17-19th!



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