



July-August 2020

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

CHECK OUT WHAT DESERT STARS MEMBERS AND THEIR CARS HAVE BEEN UP TO.....

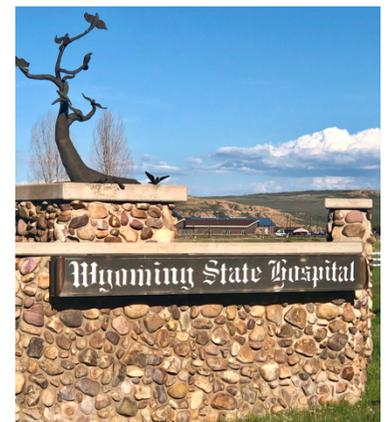
Recent Road Trip During the COVID pandemic

By Ron & Rhonda Borino<<https://borino.com/>>

On May 26th Rhonda and I took off to a trip to visit my mother in Casper Wyoming<<https://casperwy.gov/>> for her 88th birthday. We wanted to celebrate with her but also wanted to visit with my sister and her husband<<https://www.facebook.com/pattykay.bowman>> in Henderson, NV. We decided to stop in Henderson on the way up to Casper. Once we got past Lake Pleasant on the Carefree highway, we did not see another vehicle in front or behind us. We had a clear road to the intersection of the Arizona 60 highway. On Arizona 60 we saw primarily big rig traffic and hardly any car traffic. We passed every car or truck on the road doing the speed limit. We ran into the same traffic situation on both the I-40 and the State route 93 into Henderson. Traffic was nicely spaced, mostly trucks and moving at the speed limit.

We spent the night in Henderson. Traffic the next morning out of the Vegas metropolitan area was noticeably light and once we started up I-15 towards our first stop, which was to be Evanston, WY<<https://www.evanstonwy.org/>> again we encountered primarily truck traffic with very few cars. Once in Evanston we checked in to our hotel which was less than 20% full. After a Zoom<<https://zoom.us/>> meeting we headed out to dinner. After driving through town, we became concerned about the restaurants there and social distancing. We ended up having dinner that night at a fast food place. [Yuk, I am not a big fan]. A couple of things to note, the hotel normally has one of those cheesy continental breakfasts and coffee. No more, you may get a frozen egg sandwich to take to the room and heat in the microwave. The pool and fitness areas were shut down too. Rhonda did go through the room and wiped down all "high touch" areas separate from whatever the hotel was doing. For those that are not familiar with Evanston, it is the home of the state mental hospital<<https://health.wyo.gov/behavioralhealth/statehospital/>> . I did drive Rhonda by there thinking I could get her admitted. I am just kidding ladies. She would not get out of the car for a picture.

The next morning we headed up I-80<<https://kingfm.com/picture-proves-the-highway-to-heaven-is-on-i-80-in-wyoming/>> towards Casper. Again, nothing but truck traffic with very few passenger cars on the road. We were passed by a few cars but most were doing the speed limit which is 80 mph. We got off of I-80 in Rawlins, WY<<https://www.wyomingcarboncounty.com/places-to-visit/rawlins>> to take state route 287 and 220 into Casper. This is a great drive and is scenic if you like wide open spaces. We arrived in Casper about 3 pm and for the next few days spent time with my mother celebrating her birthday. The hotel we stayed at was also at 20% capacity. A couple of things that were interesting is that my mother was all in on going out to eat. She wanted nothing to do with bringing food back to her place. Every place we went had wait staff in masks and your food was served by the same people wearing gloves. Social distancing was in effect and many places had removed a number of tables from their premises to help ensure people were distanced.



Continued on page 7

President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

I hope this finds everyone well.

We have had to cancel or postpone events due to Covid 19 but slowly we are getting some things planned. We held the Annual Business meeting, a Star Night and the annual fall Havasuapai is in the planning stages, as is the Holiday Party.

If anyone has any ideas and would like to host an event, please reach out to Karen Manser. As you have heard so many times of late, we are in this together. We can use your help.

I hope to see you soon. Stay well and stay safe.




Welcome our new Members!

April

Bobby Begay
Kirk Dunsavage
Joel Fritzler

May

James Riga

"More Than a Car Club | We're a Community"

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Newsletter Editor:

Interim Debbie Ichiyama

• Email StarDustMBCA@gmail.com

Contributing Credits for this Issue:

Rhonda & Ron Borino
Terry & Katherine Coult
Carey Hobson
John Hutchison
Debbie Ichiyama
Ava Stanford
Chuck Stanford

Photography Credits for this issue:

Ron Borino
Terry Coult
Carey Hobson
Mark Ichiyama

Activities & Events:

Karen Manser

• Email nspinaz@gmail.com

Advertising:

Ron Borino

• Email advertising@desertstars.club

Website:

<https://desertstars.mbcas.org/>

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Havasupai 2020 is Set – Kind of....

By Chuck and Ava Stanford

We certainly hope everyone is well and starting to assimilate back into society – albeit slowly – as we get a grip on new concepts of masks, social distancing, and working and eating more from home.

Last *StarDust* we shared the challenges of planning **Havasupai 2020** from the vacuum of Zoomed venues and virtual rallye routes. Since then we’ve decided on a fall day-event that will work around town where we don’t have to worry about disinfecting hotels and unknown eating establishments. But now the challenges have grown to include wildfires, a whole new kind of “resurgence,” and the possibility of still-unknown eating establishments sharing way more than good food and adult beverages.

Your Rallye meisters are a hearty bunch and we will figure this out! Mark your calendar for October 10 or 17 and make plans to sleep at home both Friday and Saturday nights! Yes, we will make **Havasupai 2020** the “*We Beat the COVID-19 Rallye*” and we promise to assemble a fun – but safe – tour of somewhere in Maricopa County that will challenge your socially-distanced mind and reward your cloistered senses. Prizes will include responsibly-masked Kachinas! And we’ll have other surprises too – healthy of course!!

So, mark your calendar for October 10 or 17 – we will know for sure by the next issue – and plan to have a scenic and rewarding drive with safe and fun activities that will make a **Havasupai 2020** for the ages! Thanks so much for your patience and participation!

Annual Business Meeting

By Debbie Ichiyama

We were finally able to hold the Annual Business Meeting on June 27th. The meeting was a much different format and didn’t include Mark Ichiyama’s slide show. I’m sure he was upset about that. ☺ The breakfast meeting was held at Soul Café and as always, the food was great.

The slate of Officers and Directors was approved; President Debbie Ichiyama, Vice President Karen Manser, Treasurer Richard Sharp, Interim Secretary Karen Maser. Class of 2023 Directors; Carey Hobson, Kathy Hobson and Robert Yoder.

Also approved were amendments to the bylaws which will allow us to conduct meetings via tele and video conference and allow for proxy voting for business meetings.



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2020 M-B.E.A.T

By John Hutchison

As you know the M B.E.A.T is on hold until conditions permit rescheduling. Please watch your email for updates. When it can take place, the event will follow the original route as outlined below.

Soon it will be time to get your British, German, Italian or other classic automobile out of the garage to prepare it for spring and summer driving around Arizona!! We have the perfect opportunity for you to consider: The M-B.E.A.T.

This year, we will begin the Run with breakfast at Denny's Restaurant located behind the Chevron Gas Station, at the Northeast corner of Carefree Highway and Interstate 17. Those drivers, navigators and back seat riders **arriving by 6:30 am** will receive **FREE breakfast and other select gifts** courtesy of Host, Desert Stars Member Bob Yoder, who will then lead us on our back roads adventure to Flagstaff.

After breakfast, we will have a driver's meeting between 8:00-8:30 when each driving team will receive their goody bag and the driving instruction handout. Although still in the final planning stages, so that we can make sure the proposed roads are open, we are likely to follow last year's route with an initial rest room break in Wickenburg at Coffinger Park, and another mid-morning break in Skull Valley before we continue toward Prescott. We will break for lunch in Prescott (at your own cost) at The Palace Restaurant & Saloon on Whiskey Row. After lunch you will have time to roam the quaint downtown stores and Courthouse Square.

Between 1:00-1:30 pm we depart, heading for Jerome, where again you will have time to wander the streets, stop at a winery tasting room or visit the unique Gold King Mine & Ghost Town where you can view a number of Studebaker vehicles, including an operable 1902 Electric. From there, we will head to Clarkdale (you may want to visit the very interesting and historic Copper Art Museum in the old High School building on Main Street) and Old Town Cottonwood for ice cream and more shopping. Our next stop will be Sedona which is always a pleasure to visit and browse. You should be on your way north by 4:00 pm so that you arrive at the Little America Hotel in Flagstaff by 5:00 pm. After registration, please go to the back area of the parking to have your picture taken with your vehicle by Mike Goodwin, the founder of the original BEAT!

More information regarding Hotels and dinner will be available when event is rescheduled.



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CHECK OUT WHAT HAVE DESERT STARS MEMBERS AND THEIR CARS BEEN UP TO.....continued

Hello Desert Star members,

First, I hope that you are all well during this very unusual time. As many of you know through my job, I have traveled out of state every week for many years, racking up many air miles and hotel nights, so this event has changed my lifestyle significantly. Home with my wife Kathy for nearly three months now, we have accomplished many projects together, cleaning closets, rearranging drawers etc. One of my favorite projects is spending time with my two Mercedes, a 2002 SL 500 Silver Arrow and a 1998 C230. I have completely worked the exteriors and interiors to the point of showroom condition. My compliments to Griots Garage. Their products are fabulous and I highly recommend them. They are mail order catalog company from Tacoma, WA and I'm hooked. You can see their Detailing Cart and Kings Pneumatic Creeper seat in the picture both of which have worked out great. I may have found a new career once I retire. I truly enjoy the detailing and care of these fine automobiles. Who knows, someday I may be the Desert Stars detailing professional at your service!

Look forward to seeing all again soon,

Happy Motoring,

Carey Hobson



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CV19 Lock Down Boredom / Provides Opportunities

Terry & Katherine Coult

Would it make sense if I were to state that CV19 has provided excuses to indulge in a state of boredom? Nahh! I have greatly missed the social & volunteer interactions that have often been replaced by Zoom.

Having said that, Facetime has enabled us the opportunity to spend time with our son who lives in Strasbourg, France. Same is true of spending time with our daughter, son in law & LITTLE BABY ALICE. Our RN daughter, Kristen-Holly has made it clear, NO trips to Billings to visit her unless we quarantine for two weeks after our trip to Billings. Protective Mom she is! Kristen & Brian are very protective . . . they even quarantine the mail and groceries.

The terrific news; it has provided excuses to over indulge in activities that I/we do enjoy.

Needless to say, I have a passion for really clean, well-kept classy cars. Our Mercedes Benz GLK 250 Blue Tec received four days of intense love/detail effort. Being almost 7 years old one could almost call it a Classic. Ok, at least in my own mind. The caressing began around 8 PM on a Tuesday. I had had enough of TV, the WSJ & Az Republic newspapers, and was not yet ready to start reading a book.

Ahh, I remembered that the GLK was due for a wax job, no better time to start than now. Three hours later, I found myself looking at a spotless engine compartment. If I could get an Armorall moistened rag on a surface, it was lovingly attended to. Metal Painted surfaces were waxed. It was then that I noticed the Pad located on the hood detracted from the showroom appearance I was after. I quickly located the shop vacuum; and then set my eyes & efforts on locating every spot of dust that was attempting to hide from my focused attention on the mission to have the engine compartment look like the day the car was delivered. Yes!!!! Mission accomplished. Not yet...read on.

For the next three days, after morning coffee, it was back to the very clean garage (That is another story Of CV19 boredom). Let's just say that if a GLK surface could be waxed, vacuumed, or shined it was. To provide insight in showing love to "my" classic GLK . . . every glass surface was waxed and polished. Trick I learned while working in Montana 45 years ago. It is much easier to clean a bug covered windshield if waxed. To this day, prior to taking a trip, I still continue to wax the windshield prior to the journey. It works.

Katherine & I will be leaving shortly for a drive to SLC, Utah. This will be the first road trip in Katherine's recently acquired 2016 E 350 Sport. Yes, it is a blast to drive. (Katherine has reluctantly allowed me to drive it.) Only when it needs gas or a wash, will she then relinquish her treasured E-350 to me.

I would like to add; golf for me, at least twice weekly. The front yard of our home has been basically re-landscaped. (Updated) Looks terrific but must say the project was not as much fun as providing love to our Mercedes. Katherine has cleaned & shined every corner and closet of our home. I think the cars look better. Katherine has a different opinion. The argument has yet to be settled.

We recently watched the Hunger Games movies & have just started watching the Star Wars movies in chronological order. Look forward to a normal retired life.



Continued from page 1

We had a great time with my mother and drove her around in the GLS450<https://www.mbusa.com/en/vehicles/model/gls/suv/gls450w4?sd_campaign_type=Search&sd_digadprov=Resolution&sd_campaign=Brand%7CCorp%7CGLS%7CSUV%7CExact&sd_channel=GOOGLE&sd_adid=GLS+450+SUV&sd_digadkeyword=mercedes+gls+450&gclid=CjwKCAjw8pH3BRAXEiwA1pvMse8lhhlWmmye3GxNUcsJiSAho9XH9Ru7pEow19XuVNMep3ddUjdGPRoC3NIQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds>. We went out to Alcova Reservoir<<https://www.visitcasper.com/things-to-do/water-activities/alcova-reservoir/>> for lunch and hit some of the tourist areas of Casper. Believe me she liked the massaging seats and just getting out.

We left Casper June 2nd headed towards Ft Collins CO. We wanted to take a route that didn't include I-25 so we headed to state route 220 which then turned to state route 487 and goes through the little towns of Medicine Bow<<https://www.medicinebow.org/>>, Rock River, which is known now days for oil and gas. Then on to Laramie<<https://visitlaramie.org/>> where the State University is and finally in to Ft. Collins. Excellent scenery with plains, mountains, animals<<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackalope>> and small towns all along the way. We arrived in Ft. Collins<<https://www.visitftcollins.com/>> around 3 pm, checked into our hotel [again less than 20% full] and went to a nice dinner at a local restaurant.

The next morning we left Ft. Collins via highway 287 and headed towards Colorado route 34 to Estes Park<<https://estes-park.com/>>. What a drive and this is best done with the sun roof cover open as some of the views of cliffs are simply amazing. We drove through Rocky Mountain NP<<https://www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm>> as far as the park service would allow. Apparently, the road was still shut down due to snow but the drive up as far as they allowed was amazing. We then headed back down Highway 36 through Lyons, Boulder and Golden to connect with highway 285 to go to Fairplay, Colorado<<https://www.colorado.com/cities-and-towns/fairplay>>. Since I am a South Park<<https://southpark.cc.com/>> fan I wanted to see if we could spot Kyle, Cartman, Kenny and Stan's homes. While we didn't see their houses there is a street in town that has plenty of South Park themed businesses along it. Very interesting [to me]. After leaving South Park we headed to our hotel in Breckenridge. The road to Breckenridge is interesting with all the ranches at 7000'+. You have to try to imagine how these ranchers make it through the winter.

Our stay in Breckenridge<<https://gobreck.com/>> wasn't overly eventful as this town was just opening back up. In fact, the restaurant we went to was just open for its first day. We were both tired from the long day and soon after dinner we had and another Zoom meeting and then shortly after that went to bed. The next day we headed out of Breckenridge towards Moab, Ut<<https://www.discovermoab.com/>> via I-70. This is a spectacular drive<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNqcNH7ez4k>> with some highway engineering going through the mountains that is amazing. Driving through those mountains is a good time again to have the sun roof open. There are places on that road you can look straight up and see nothing but rock for hundreds of feet. Kind of has you wondering how many times the highway department has to remove boulders from the road. The farther west we drove towards UT the more the scenery changes from mountains to plains. As you leave Grand Junction, the otherworldly nature of petrified sand dunes, red rock formations and hoodoos starts to become apparent.



Hills outside of Casper



Of course once we got to Moab we went to Arches National Park<<https://www.nps.gov/arch/index.htm>>, which again is just fascinating. We spent quite a bit of time there even though it was about 30 degrees hotter than where we had been the last couple of days. We spent the night in Moab and again turned in early, as while the drive was fairly short, spending time in the heat looking at the bizarre rock formations zapped us.

The next day we left Moab and headed back to Henderson<<https://www.cityofhenderson.com/>> as the members of our wine family were going to have a little get together for us. We finished making 2 barrels of wine with them and had a nice dinner prepared by my sister. We picked up our share of the wine as well as the wine we made with another group at Grape Expectations<<https://grapeexpectationslasvegas.com/>>. We spent the night and the next day drove around the Vegas area to see the new practice facility and Allegiant Stadium<<https://www.allegiantstadium.com/>> for the Raiders. The team spared no tax payer dollars on these facilities. We also drove up the strip which was reeling from apparent pent up demand for gambling as it was as busy as ever with many casinos now open. There is a lot of construction going on with new casinos and the addition to the Las Vegas convention center which is pretty much done. The tunneling effort between the convention center, being done by Elon Musk's company<<https://www.theverge.com/2020/6/12/21285741/elon-musk-boring-company-las-vegas-wynn-encore-resorts-world-casinos>> is going to be expanding to include connections to a variety of hotels. There is even talk of a tunnel to the new stadium since there is very little parking at the stadium. Lots of activity.

I should note that the traffic coming back was totally different than going to Henderson. Roads were much busier and pretty much back to the same old grind of rudeness on the road with California drivers putting along in the left lanes, high speed drivers, etc. Nonetheless, we had a great time, saw a lot of very nice scenery and people and arrived home very relaxed and ready to plan another trip<<https://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>>.

Note to readers. All time spent in gas stations, stores, touring with other people, checking into hotels, and walking to our seats in restaurants, etc. was done in compliance with the CDC guidelines<<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>> i.e. masks and social distancing when possible. We would recommend having a supply of masks with you, hand sanitizer and a can of spray sanitizer with you on your trips. Now that things are open it is no time to take chances. You can still have fun and be safe.



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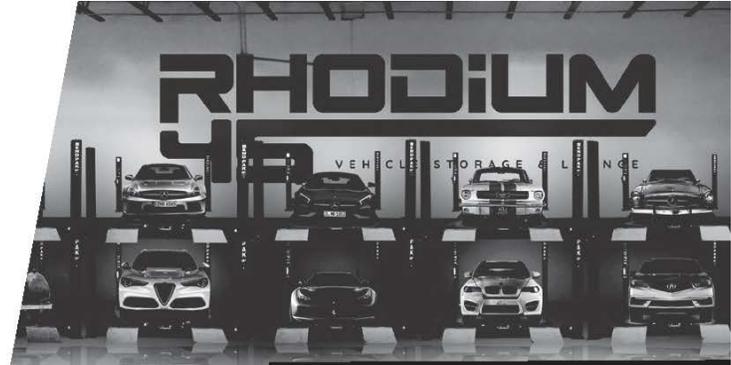
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Stardust Sponsor Spotlight:

Tell us a little about Miller's and the history

Originally established in California in 1981, Miller's was primarily a mail-order business known as Miller's Mercedes Parts. The first 5 years were devoted entirely to 190SL parts and over the course of several more years we added more car lines, built up our inventory and acquired customers in international markets. Miller's was a west coast mainstay until early to mid -2000's when we expanded to the east coast thus offering 2 locations to better serve our customers. In 2012 the business then consolidated and relocated to Prescott, Arizona remaining until almost four years ago, when the original owner decided it was time to retire, at that time we cut ties with Corporate America and became new small business owners. We continued to maintain office and warehouse space in Prescott until we happily gave up the daily 3-hour round trip drive and relocated to our current site in North Phoenix. One thing that has remained constant is our fantastic parts manager, Mike, who has been with the company since the early days. He knows the parts like the back of his hand and can recall and recite manufacturer numbers like most people relay their birthdate.

What products and services do you offer?

Our line of products includes parts and accessories for all classic Mercedes-Benz from the 60's and 70's as well as SL's from 1963 through 1990. In addition, we stock routine maintenance parts for most 70's, 80's and 90's models and we can also be found hunting down hard to find or discontinued parts. Most people don't know that Miller's also manufactures many parts no longer available from Mercedes-Benz for many of the older Mercedes models, including rubber seals, chrome, heater boxes and more, selling our reproductions all over the world. We provide quality parts and accessories to a wide range of customers including full restoration shops, auto repair stations and the average do-it-yourself enthusiast.

What is the most unique part you've sold?

Throughout the years one of Mike's most memorable was a hydraulic window switch for a 1970 Mercedes-Benz Limo. It was already discontinued by the time we began our search and we managed to find the last new one in existence! At the time, which was about 10 years ago, the cost of this teeny switch was \$5k. We had to convince the UPS driver that while it may not look like it, the insured value was indeed correct!

What else would you like Desert Star members to know about you or Miller's Inc?

Even though Miller's has changed hands, it is still owned by an automotive aficionado who has an enthusiasm for car restoration and a passion for helping customers find that specific part to get their own classic Mercedes Benz back on the road again for all to enjoy.

And we offer a 15% discount to Desert Star members! Use voucher code [stardust15](#) when you order online at [shop.millermbz.com](#) or mention you are a member when you call us at 714-557-0115. Owners: Eric and Tracie Hasselbring



THE CLASSIC COLLECTION



Local Car Culture: Ongoing Events and Gatherings

Many of these events have been cancelled and are in process of being rescheduled due to covid19. Updates will follow in future editions

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Star Night

By Karen Manser

We had a great Star Night at Sapiens Paleo Kitchen on May 31st! Eighteen people were in attendance. It is a smaller cozy restaurant and we had it all to ourselves while Roman and his wife, the chef, went out of their way to make it a great evening. Everyone enjoyed the BYOB and outstanding food. We will schedule another dinner there in the future so more of you can experience the great cuisine!

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SAVE THESE DATES

TBD
Oct 10 or 17
Dec 6

Sat
Sun

M-B.E.A.T.
Havasupai
Holiday Party

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