



May – June 2021

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Annual Meeting

By Debbie Ichiyama

Saturday May 22nd

The meeting will be held at Soul Café on May 22nd at 8 am. We will have a separate dining section and for those of you who wish you may sit outside. We will be paying by separate checks. The ballots and information will be brought to you.

Please contact Debbie at dichiyama@me.com or Karen at Nspinaz@gmail.com to let us know if you will be attending. If you will not be attending but would like to vote please send an email to desertstars@desertstars.club and we will send you a ballot.

The slate of officers and directors is below.

<http://www.soulscottsdale.com>

Annual Meeting Slate of Officers and Directors

Candidate Slate for Officers

President:	Debbie Ichiyama
Vice President:	Karen Manser
Treasurer:	Rhonda Borino
Secretary:	Karen Manser (Interim)

Candidate Slate for Class of 2024

Katherine Coult
Ed Crawford

President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

After 20 years as the Desert Stars Treasurer, Dick Sharp has decided to step down from keeping track of the club's finances. Without a doubt, he has been the club's longest continuous Desert Stars officer. I want to personally thank him for all his hardwork and dedication to the Desert Stars. Dick and his wife Mindy have been members for 35 years and we look forward to continue seeing them at events for a long time to come.

Thank you, Dick, for all you have done for the club and for a job well done.



Debbie



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Volume 57 Number 3

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Welcome our new Members!

February

Scott Battle
John Dagirmanjian
Susan Mellinger
Cody Ramirez
Rick Schmidt
Darshil Shah

March

Michael Clancy Karen Sheriff
David Cost Carolyn Thomas
Tom Guevara Donna Willemesen
George Hays
Kenneth Millar
Michael Peterson
Brad Pitassi

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Kathy Hobson (480) 455-9202

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Bob Yoder (480) 998-0194

SW Regional Director:

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Chairs:

Activities & Events:

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Membership:

Debbie Ichiyama

Publicity/Webmaster:

Mark Ichiyama

Newsletter Advertising:

Ron Borino

Newsletter Editor:

Interim Debbie Ichiyama

Havasupai 2021 Rallye

Oct 15-17 or Oct 22-24

By Ed and Annette Crawford

The Desert Stars are pleased to announce that we will once again return to a traditional fall Havasupai weekend event that will bring us all safely together to enjoy a weekend of fun and relaxation. This fall we will head to the southern parts of Arizona for some beautiful driving that will test your knowledge, awareness, and skill, all while seeing various historic towns, wineries, and state parks. On Friday and Saturday evenings, we will be having a great time enjoying some hospitality together.

We are now in the process of finalizing the accommodations, dining options, and prizes. Look for more details to come in the next edition of The Star Dust.

Ed & Annette Crawford
The Rallyemasters



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2021 Poker Run Recap

By John Hutchison & Ron Borino

On Saturday, March 27, 25 Desert Stars members in 13 shined up Benzes, many with two Covid-19 shots, ventured out into the virus-crazed society and into a perfect cool sunny day searching for a poker hand that might win them a fabulous Prize. Three winners came out of the pool of contestants.

On almost caravan form, we toured the South, East and North Valley visiting several of our Desert Stars advertisers finding out what they can do for us as well as other points of interest.

We started the tour in Mesa at Rhodium45, a vehicle storage facility where Larry Read treated us to coffee and pastries then took us through his class car collection telling us a bit about the history of each of his cars. The first classic was a 1920's Duesenberg that he is preparing to take to Auburn IN this fall for a race against Jay Leno in one of Leno's own Duesenberg collector cars. Other classics in his collection are a 1950's T-Bird, 1953 and 1954 Nash-Healy sports cars, a 1931 Hudson that once belonged to President Hoover, and Amelia Earhart Terraplane (Hudson) convertible (she was Hudson's celebrity spokesperson) and a host of other fully restored examples of the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's, all drivable. The 1950 Cadillac Convertible (shocking pink) has starred in a number of parades and even in one or two of Victoria Secret TV advertisements.

That stop was followed by visits to Mercedes-Benz of Gilbert, the Rose Garden located at Mesa Community College, the Scottsdale Forensic Lab, a piece of public art called *The Sunburst* at SkySong, the USS Arizona Memorial at Salt River Fields, the Scottsdale Water Campus Advanced Water Treatment Plant in North Scottsdale, the Airpark Collision Center Facility and finally the Frank Lloyd Wright Commemorative Park where his design The Spire is located at the Promenade Shopping Center on the Southeast corner of Scottsdale Road and FLW Blvd. If you had been on the trip, you would have learned a bit about each of these historic spots in this side of the Valley of the Sun. Don't hesitate to join us on our 2020 Poker Run.

At the end of the tour, we gathered at the O.H.S.O. Eatery & Distillery for refreshments and dinner. While decompressing from the competitive road event, each participant reviewed their poker hand and decided whether they needed additional cards to enhance their hand, assuming they had enough "challenge question" points to justify drawing replacement cards. After dinner, the showdown revealed three participants with high enough hands to win prizes and one with a **perfect** low Hand.

Winners of the 2021 Poker Run were: Arnie Brown with a full house, new member Susan Mellinger with a Flush and Rich Schulte with a slightly lower-class flush. The absolute lowest hand was held by one of last year's winners, our Section President, Debbie Ichiyama. Each of the winners were saluted with Mercedes-Benz Logo prizes including a set of four wine glasses, a Picnic Basket complete with utensils, glasses and plats and a briefcase full of barbecue tools. For her "perfect" lowest land, Ace, 2,3,4 and 6 Flush, Debbie received a book on how to win at Poker for use in next year's Poker Run.

Thanks to all participants and advertisers. We hope our Desert Stars members are looking forward to and will be able to participate in next year's Poker Run.



Drivers Meeting at Rhodium45



Kathy and Carey Hobson getting Poker Cards from John Hutchison



Gift Selections



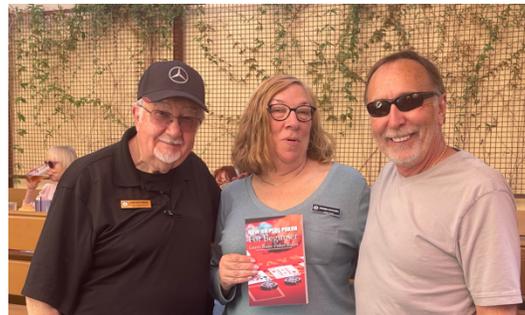
Ron Borino Rallye Master, Matt Crawford (driver) Arnie Brown 1st place winner, John Hutchison Rallye Master



Ron Borino Rallye Master, Susan Mellinger 2nd place winner, John Hutchison Rallye Master



Ron Borino Rallye Master, Rich Schulte 3rd place winner, John Hutchison Rallye Master



John Hutchison Rallye Master, Debbie Ichiyama last place winner, Ron Borino Rallye Master



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Tino Ferrulli

Sponsor Spotlight

In this edition of Sponsor Spotlight, we take a “home inspection” with Joseph Thompson of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Arizona Properties, one of MBCA Desert Stars’ non-automotive advertisers. Joseph’s office is located just north of the valley at 3434 W. Anthem Way, Suite#112, Anthem, AZ 85086.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices is the real estate division of the Warren Buffett conglomerate. Joseph is an Associate Broker and a seasoned veteran among his peers in the Phoenix area. He has been working in the industry for over thirty years in various roles. Joseph’s wife, Fran, aids him in the back-office operations side of the business, and humbly refers to herself as the “silent assistant” and “spellchecker”. They have been married for fifty wonderful years!

Q: Joseph, tell us how you got started in the real estate industry.

A: It all started as a part-time job in college. I was a leasing agent at an apartment complex. I moved on to become a manager within that same leasing company, and obtained my real estate license; then on to become a broker.

Q: What are some of your other earlier experiences and roles:

A: After becoming a broker, I worked in new home sales for Hallcraft Homes. That’s when my interest and involvement in the large-scale, residential home sales market began to develop. My move over to Beazer Homes as a sales manager gave me the opportunity to later become their marketing director and thereafter serve as company president. I was responsible for having roughly 14,500 homes built during my tenure.

Q: So after those successes, what is your current industry focus, and what sets you apart from other agents and brokers?

A: I give each client my full attention. Whether selling or buying a home, the details and prompt follow up are critical to a smooth, successful transaction. Higher end homes must be marketed differently than the average home, and thus often require a more exacting approach. I’m very good at the details!

Q: Fran, tell us how you met Joseph, and how you spend your leisure time.

A: In college, I worked for a law office in downtown Phoenix. At that time the only lunchtime place my budget allowed was a nearby Jack-in-the-Box. Joseph worked the window there, and the rest is history. Since we both are car enthusiasts, especially classic cars, we enjoy car shows. We also are involved in volunteer ministry, and love to travel. Joseph serves on the Board of Overseers for the Phoenix Symphony, helping to promote the symphony and its events. But we especially enjoy what we call “Marvelous Monday”, when some of our grandchildren spend time with us. It’s a special time for all of us!

Q: Since you both love cars, any special Mercedes that you have owned that stands out?

A: Fran owned a ’72 SE280 4.5 as her daily driver. It was a really nice car. Now we drive an E-Class convertible and enjoy it very much.

Q: Joseph & Fran, anything else you want the Desert Stars members too know about you and your services with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices AZ Properties?

A: We are very pleased to have the support of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices AZ. We encourage anyone thinking about selling or purchasing a home to look at my happy clients on Zillow.com.

Then call me at (602) 206-0692 to chat, or email: jthompson241@cox.net

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2021 M-B.E.A.T. Recap

by John Hutchison

Well, the 2021 M-B.E.A.T. is history!! A total of 26 members and friends in 12 Benzes {and a couple of other non-B.E. (British/European), but welcome marques} were finally able to get out on the road and enjoy our vehicles!! No accidents, no one ran out of fuel, excellent weather (a few sprinkles up toward Flag) and mostly decent roads. Our only delays were going through Sedona with a more-than-moderate backup all the way from the Airport roadway through the AZ 179 rotary! It is a very popular town!

After selecting a gift from the center table and a filling breakfast at Denny's hosted and paid for by Desert Stars member Bob Yoder, 14 pristine cars were on the way heading West and North in the bright sunshine; at least one or two of the cars with their convertible tops down! Our first stop was at Coffinger Park in Wickenburg for a group photo and an "exhaust noise" contest, the winners being Sergio & Karen Soto in their new GT! Many others tried, but they just didn't have enough "snap" in their sound.

Then we were off to the back country heading out of Wickenburg and points North starting out on Arizona Route 89 through the town of Congress and then Glen Ilah (where was it?), and then up the long winding White Spar Highway to the small town of Yarnell. In Yarnell, they now have a shuttle bus to take you to the Granite Mountain Hot Shots Memorial State Park so you can hike through the area in which the 19 "Hotshots" perished in the Yarnell Hill Fire on June 30, 2013. At this point in our journey, we were driving in the high desert through the small villages/wide-spots-in-the-road of Peoples Valley (past the dusty pink T-Bird that hasn't moved in years), Kirkland Junction, Kirkland (note, the restaurant is open again) and then to Skull Valley where we stopped for a short break. In past years, we would have had refreshments in the converted gas station, but as many businesses have crashed this past year, we had to make-do with whatever refreshments we had in our vehicles. After the break we were again on the back road heading toward "Preskitt" (that's the way they like you to pronounce Prescott!!)

On arrival, many of the group were able to find parking on Whiskey Row which is the main thoroughfare through the downtown area. Our destination for lunch was The Palace Saloon (circa 1877) where we had a function room reserved. (Did you know the centerpiece of the Saloon, the Brunswick Bar, was built in New Jersey and freighted around the tip of South America to San Francisco and then transported to Prescott by pack mule?) After lunch, many of the group window-shopped and generally enjoyed our tentative freedom from the virus! One place we found to linger was "Olive U Naturally" on West Gurley Street; very tasty selection of olive oil and balsamic vinegar for your kitchen!

Our afternoon drive took us past the Northern Arizona Veterans Administration health care facility, through the Granite Dells (with interesting rock formations similar to the Wisconsin Dells-if you have ever been there), past Watson Lake and the Phippen Western Art Museum and onto the Pioneer Highway (Arizona Route 89 Alternate) heading along the twisty, curvy road over Mingus Mountain toward the once great city of Jerome. In Jerome our first objective was to visit the Gold King Mine & Ghost Town to see the Dodge Brothers sedan with 15 "simulated" bullet holes, a fully operable 1902 Studebaker Electric Car with a 40-mile range, the Saw Mill powered by the up-and-running one-cylinder engine, the animals and the other past wonders of the road now rusting away in the Arizona wilderness!! Note that if you are 80+, entry is FREE!!

From Jerome we followed the road down the hill to Clarkdale, through Old Town Cottonwood and then on a slow drive through Sedona into Oak Creek Canyon where the drive is now extremely smooth since they repaved the roadway (except for a rough 30' stretch just before heading up the face of the cliff) to Flagstaff. After checking in at Little America, we all had our pictures taken next to our cars, freshened up in our rooms and headed to Happy Hour, again hosted by Desert Stars member Bob Yoder, and then to an excellent dinner in the hotel restaurant!! My choice was the Prime Rib which was unarguably almost the best that I have ever had!!!



Kick off Meeting



Host Bob Yoder on left Eddie Fisher on right

After a comfortable night in the totally refurbished Little America rooms, and breakfast in the hotel restaurant in the morning, everyone headed back to the city in a variety of directions, some on Lake Mary Road and to Strawberry, Pine and Payson, some to the Grand Canyon for a quick visit, and some back through Sedona (which by the way was much less crowded than the day before) and Cottonwood to do some shopping.

In total, from our starting point at Denny's at the junction of Carefree Highway and Interstate 17 to Little America we traveled just under 203 miles with the best mileage around 40MPG and the worst not to be revealed!! It was good to get out of the house and back on to the road!! Several members expressed the need for us to have more driving events during the remainder of the year; we are trying to set them up and will let you know by a "flash" email or in the Star Dust newsletter when they are ready for prime time!

For those that have never experienced the back roads in Arizona, they should join up with us on next year's run which is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of April 23/24, 2022.



Getting ready to start the adventure!



Group shot
Coffinger Park



Sedona AZ



Gold King Mine & Ghost Town Jerome, AZ

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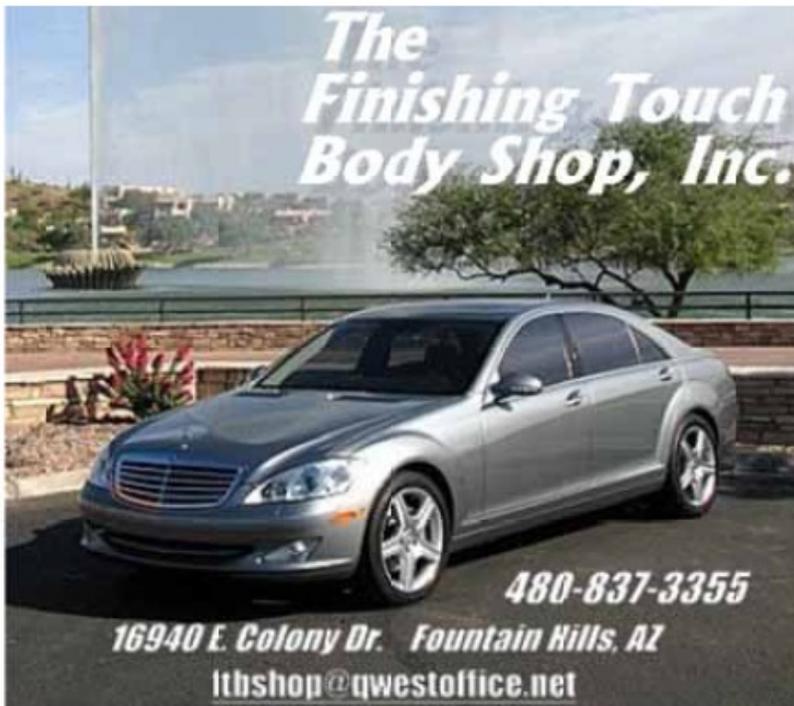
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**Local Car Culture:
Ongoing Events and
Gatherings**

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

As a Desert Star. You can list your for-sale Mercedes-Benz here and let all our readers know it's available for them to enjoy. Whether you have a high mile driver, or a collectible with more wax than miles on it, contact us and get your car listed in the StarDust. Contact info StarDustMBCA@gmail.com

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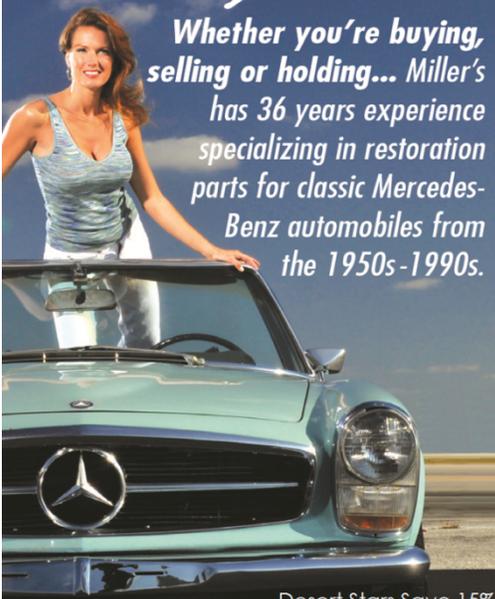


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SAVE THESE DATES

May 22	Sat	Annual Meeting
Mid Oct	Fri - Sun	Havasupai
TBD		Tech Session ACC
TBD		Arboretum & Lunch

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