



May-June 2020

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Annual Meeting May 17

By Debbie Ichiyama

The Annual Business Meeting which had been scheduled for May 17, 2020 has been canceled due to the Covid 19. Please watch your emails for an update as to when we will be able to reschedule.



Star Night

Sunday May 31, 2020 at 5:30
By Karen Manser

Join us Sunday May 31st at 5:30 for a Star Night at a local restaurant that opened in McDowell Mountain Ranch last March. The chef has amazing credentials and she and her husband have a great "STORY" about the restaurant and their past. Don't be afraid of the name, the French flavors are amazing and the food is of the highest quality and so healthy. Please check out their link. <https://sapienskitchen.com/restaurant-info/>
Click here for a gallery of their photos <https://sapienskitchen.com/gallery/>

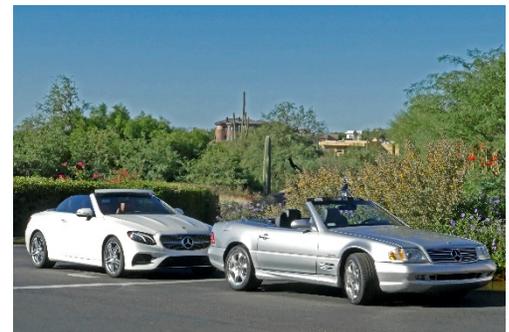
Sapiens Paleo Kitchen - French Inspired!
[10411 E McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd, Suite 120](#)
[Scottsdale, AZ 85255](#)

The restaurant is a BYOB so you can bring your favorite bottle of wine or other drink of choice. They only have the BYOB license so they cannot serve drinks. We will **start at 5:30** with some social time before dinner. The price will be \$69 per person all inclusive for dinner, tax, gratuity and corkage and you will pay at the restaurant. The menu will be pre-fix with choices for each course.

They are closed Sundays so we will have the restaurant to ourselves. **Seating is limited to 32 so get your name on the list early by emailing Karen Manser at nspinaz@gmail.com, 425-478-5509.**

Back to Benz

A quick look back at members Mercedes Benz



President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

I hope this finds you, your family and friends all well.

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 we have had to cancel or postpone events for April and Mid May. Please watch for emails when it is safe to reschedule. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Desert Star members have still been keeping busy, certainly learning how to cook and bake new things and discovering how that translates to dirty dishes. Other members have been discovering "the zen" of applying multiple layers of wax polish on hoods and fenders. One member, taking advantage of dealership desperation and rock bottom gas prices, pulled the trigger on a 2020 Mercedes-Benz.

We all look forward to when we can get back to normal and be able to visit with each other and resume our events.

Debbie



Welcome our new Members!

February

Warren Alvord
Kevin Peters
Sandi Powers
Sergio Soto
Kris Stevens

March

Vincent Wagner
Demian Torres-Bohl

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

May-June 2020

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Planning for Havasupai 2020 (or is it 2021?)

By Chuck and Ava Stanford

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy! Like you, we're learning that this pandemic has created difficulties and uncertainties as well as teaching us new ways to work and play! Your Havasupai 2020 Rally Team has learned just how challenging planning a group event can become when doing it long distance. Virtual hotels, pretend restaurants, and imaginary rally routes just don't make for a well-oiled event!

We're being forced to reconsider our plan for the usual early fall weekend getaway. With so much up in the air, we're also considering a day rally in town or even rescheduling until spring. But all this is still conjecture until we see how soon everything settles out. So stay safe and stay tuned – we'll know more by the next issue of the StarDust!

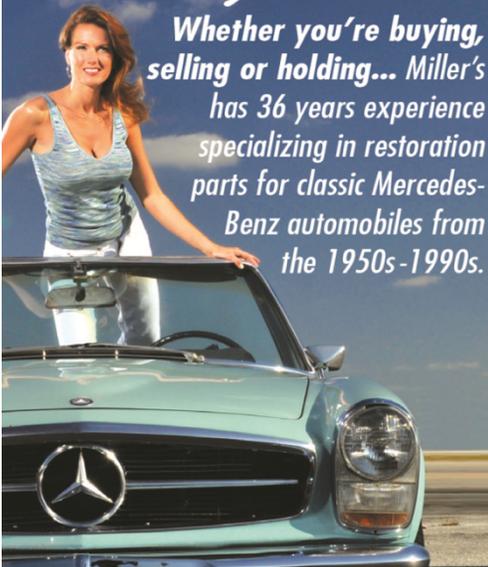


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2020 M-B.E.A.T

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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2020 Poker Run Recap

by Rob Borino and John Hutchison

On Saturday, March 14 after the big rain saturated the Valley of the Sun, 36 hearty Desert Stars souls in 16 shined up Benzes wandered out into the glorious sun searching for a poker hand that might win them a fabulous prize! Three winners came out of the pool of contestants along with another member having the lowest possible hand!!

In almost caravan form, we toured the East and North Valley visiting our Desert Stars advertisers finding out more about their business and what they can do for us. We started the tour in Fountain Hills at Finishing Touch where Matt Tilden took us through his car restoration and painting facility. That was followed by visits to Mercedes-Benz of North Scottsdale where we had lunch and a drawing for a Mercedes-Benz watch (won by Desert Stars Member Jim Boyle), then to Miller MBZ to take a look at their Mercedes-Benz parts warehouse, Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale for an overview of their AMG stockpile, OEI Design Studios to learn more about their architectural capabilities and finally at Bud Cloninger's M-B Motors. Each of the advertisers gave a short talk and allowed us to peruse their facilities.

At the end of the tour, we gathered at the Red Devil Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria where each participant reviewed their poker hand and decided whether or not they needed additional cards to enhance their hand assuming they had enough "challenge question" points to justify those added cards. After dinner, the showdown revealed four participants with Four of a Kind hands and one with absolutely nothing!!



Winners of the 2020 Poker run were: Kim Cesal with 4 aces; Frank Wolz II with 4 Queens and Deb Ichiyama with 4 eights!! The absolute lowest hand was held by Karl Buschmann. Each of the "winners" were saluted with prizes including a very unique Rolex Gift Pack from Hamra Jewelers which included a split of bubbly, a Mercedes-Benz edition of Monopoly, a bottle of premier Red Wine and a wine party package, as well as a deck of cards and a book on how to win at Poker for the lowest possible hand.

Thanks to all who participated and to Hamra Jewelers for their donated prize package, the goodie bags and the bottle of jewelry cleaner for each car. The club is looking forward to next year's Poker Run!!



Kim Cesal with 4 aces

Frank Wolz II with 4 Queens

Debbie Ichiyama with 4 eights

Word Search

Hint:

Advertisers found in the Newsletter

Words found horizontally, diagonally and even backwards

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 C L T N Y F F O Q V V Y P L Q C O X A P C Q N J H G O O
 S Z G A R T F F U L S W E E T S H E S N X N Q L F X Y L O
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Stardust Sponsor Spotlight:

Artful Sweets

Can you briefly walk us through your story – how you started and how you got to where you are today.

I've traveled a very circuitous route changing careers, not just jobs, multiple times before I followed my true passion. At a certain juncture in my journey, I was lucky enough to have my husband encourage (PUSH and CHALLENGE – lol!!) me to re-evaluate my career. I had moved quickly up the corporate ladder at a huge company but as he put it “every Sunday your whole body changes because you don't want to wake up on Monday morning and go to work.” Months later after winning a long overdue promotion, I quit and enrolled in pastry school. At the time we were living in Maryland and after graduation I worked as Pastry Chef in several well-respected restaurants in the Washington, D.C. area and then had the great fortune to work in the research and development kitchen for AUI Fine Foods, a world renowned importer of pastry ingredients and food products. For me, it was like attending finishing school.



I worked with and trained under some of the best pastry chefs in the world fine-tuning and expanding my skills and repertoire. Moving to Scottsdale in 2007, I taught baking and pastry at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale, Classic Cooking Academy in Scottsdale, and Scottsdale Community College. Missing production and interacting with customers, I then devoted my efforts to building The Thumb bakery's repertoire and reputation in North Scottsdale for several years. In January 2019, I left The Thumb to open Artful Sweets, LLC, spreading my creative wings by focusing on custom designed cakes and desserts.

Tell us about your business/company. What do you do, what do you specialize in, what are you known for, etc. What are you most proud of as a company? What sets you apart from others?

Artful Sweets creates custom, made-to-order cakes and desserts that are dazzling to look at and bursting with flavor. As a custom business, I help make celebrations extraordinary by bringing people's visions to life. Using my classical French training and my artistic skills, my designs range from whimsical to sophisticated; simple to intricate; trendy to traditional. It's not just about the design – everything I create must make your mouth dance with pleasure too. All cakes and desserts are made from scratch using seasonal fruits, premium chocolates, fragrant spices and freshly roasted nuts – there are no mixes, no powders in my world.

As a made-to-order business, how can our members place orders?

I recognize that everyone is busy so I do my best to be flexible working by phone, email and text as much as possible. Members can reach me using the contact information below. Initially, we'll talk about the celebration and ideas to make it spectacular. Customers often have pictures and ideas they like and then, through conversation and sketches (tastings too, if requested), we fine-tune and focus on themes, flavors, and flourishes that will make each cake uniquely theirs. Lead-time for orders varies with the time of year and type and complexity of the order, with wedding cakes requiring at least 2 months advance planning. Whenever possible, though, I will add a last minute order to my production schedule – I love being part of joyous celebrations!

Do you ship out of state?

I have customers who take decorated cookies on airplanes for parties away from home and also have a large corporate client who ships my cookies with their company logo to clients all over the country.



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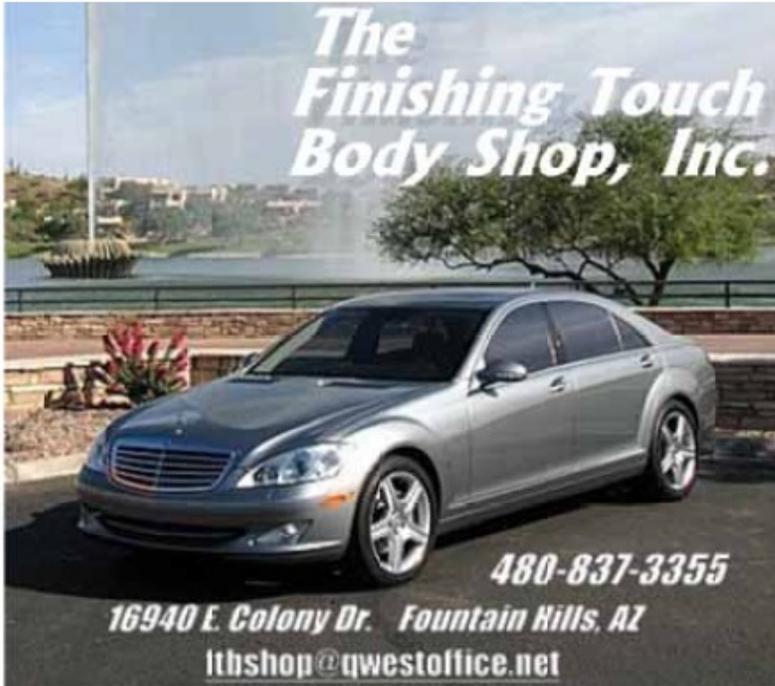
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**Local Car Culture:
Ongoing Events and
Gatherings**

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

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