



July-August 2020

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Havasupai

By Chuck and Ava Stanford

Havasupai 2020 Set for October 17th

The Desert Stars are pleased to present a very special ***Havasupai 2020 "COVID Edition."*** Thanks to lots of careful planning, our traditional fall Rallye has been scaled back this year to a local day Rallye in safe and socially-responsible settings. No overnights and no hotels, but still plenty of fun!

Plan now to come out and join us on Saturday morning, October 17th when we'll meet at an east valley location and set off on what will be a scenic and historical tour around the valley. Our safety is a high priority and has resulted in a shorter, less-intense than usual tour. Think open scenic drives rather than closed-in museums or other attractions. We have been assured that our selected lunch and dinner venues are committed to service that follows all local government and CDC guidelines.

Of course, part of the agenda will be tricky as always, and you can count on matching wits with our devious rallyemasters. Exercising your observation skills and puzzle solving abilities will lead you to a well deserved respite. The traditional awards banquet will be held at a fine north valley bistro where we are assured great food and beverages! Some things are too time-honored to change, including the traditional Indian Kachinas for the winners and prizes for all!

Your \$239 entry fee will include lunch and dinner for you and your favorite navigator plus prizes and lots of fun. As always, we'll pick up all costs except "fuel" (whether that be gasoline, diesel or alcohol)! Please use the entry form on pg.13 and let us know no later than October 2nd if you plan to join us. Contact our rallyemasters Chuck and Ava Stanford at 480-585-0785 or AzBenzGuy@msn.com if you have questions, and watch for an e-mail closer to the event for additional details.



Annual Holiday Party

Please watch for updates via email and the next issue of The StarDust for updates. In the meantime, save the date.
Dec 6, 2020

President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

Smile, your new Mercedes is not only an example of masterful engineering, it's likely got so many cameras built into it, you may want to consider looking your best every time you take it out for a drive.

In a recent JD Powers survey, luxury car owners were asked what tech features they would seek in their next car. The absolute winner category were Cameras. We love technologies that provide an "extra set of eyes" to help us drive and park our cars. A mere decade ago, the rear-view camera was a luxury option, now it is hard to find a new car without one. Mercedes cars over the years used radar like sensors for "seeing" cars in the driver's blind spot, they added front facing cameras in all the mirrors and grill to not only see lane markings, the traffic ahead for adjusting the cruise control, but also to provide the "birds eye" view of the car which many find extremely popular for filing in a parking space.

The coming 2021 S-Class will be using its forward cameras to also inspect the road surface ahead to adjust the suspension for the best ride and control, and an interior camera can detect if there is a child seat installed to adjust the first ever rear passenger airbag system. Finally, sensors in the doors can predict if a side impact will occur and adjust the car higher for passenger safety. Typically, features on the S-Class finds its way through the rest of the model line, so while you may not have the top of the line in mind, the technology will follow.



Debbie



Welcome our new Members!

June

Stan Cohen
Marc Gordon
Richard Scheuble

July

Bob Johnson
Jay Layman

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

July-August 2020

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Photo Contest

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the contest. The winners are shown below and throughout the Newsletter. In upcoming issues, we will include some of the runners up for all to enjoy.

Low Mileage

Ava Stanford's 2002 SL600 Silver Arrow has 23,988 miles, only about 1300 per year since new.



High Mileage

Rhonda Borino's 2020 GLS has 12,181 miles in 4 months 3,045 miles per month.



Continued on page 5

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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Desert Stars Event Starfest 2012 Hosted by Desert Stars

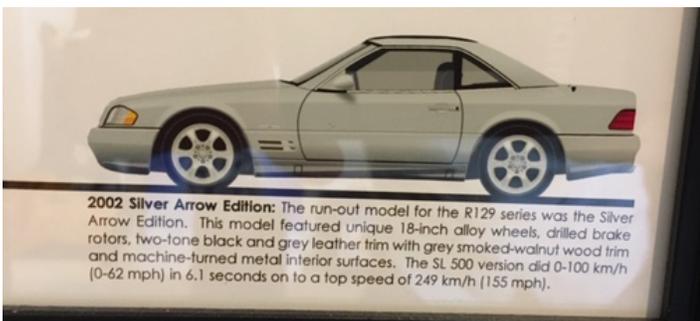
Carey Hobson won 3rd place with his R129 2002 SL500 Silver Arrow that he purchased in 2011. It is 1 of 1400 produced and came with a briefcase, pen and key ring. It was the last year for that body style.



MBCA StarFest 2012. See More



Continued on page 6



2002 Silver Arrow Edition: The run-out model for the R129 series was the Silver Arrow Edition. This model featured unique 18-inch alloy wheels, drilled brake rotors, two-tone black and grey leather trim with grey smoked-walnut wood trim and machine-turned metal interior surfaces. The SL 500 version did 0-100 km/h (0-62 mph) in 6.1 seconds on to a top speed of 249 km/h (155 mph).

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Tino Ferrulli

Mercedes-Benz

Team **Tino Ferrulli**

480-748-4810

teamtino@mb-scottsdale.com

Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale

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Before and after modification

West Kenyon for his 1975 450SL that was “rescued” from a junk car lot in Phoenix, AZ.

Per West: The following are photos of my 1975 450SL that was “rescued” from a junk car lot in Phoenix, AZ where the car sat, windows down for 4 years. While it is difficult to see, the car was very sloppily painted white to cover up the original 904 midnight blue. Unfortunately, the car had been wiped down when I came to purchase it, but none the less it needed a home.

With only 100K on the clock and a sale price of \$500 I had nothing to lose if it wouldn't run, and it could certainly run out its life as a parts car. Long story short, this car had great bones, and had been exceptionally well taken care of mechanically as I discovered later.

While I did change the interior to tobacco from the factory navy blue, I inquired prior with the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center to see if changing the color to a period color would threaten its authenticity and the response was “no”. Subsequently I kept the exterior the factory color, mid-night blue and fitted the interior with MB Tex tobacco — Which I personally found to be much more appealing than navy on navy.

Many interior parts such as the steering wheel and 99% of all console parts are what came on the car and were carefully restored, as I wanted to keep the car as original as possible.

The car is now back on the road after 24 months of work, and with just a few parts left that I'm still hunting for its as good as new.



Best Vista

Northwest entrance to Yellowstone Park late July 2020



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Sponsor Spotlight

In this edition of “**Sponsor Spotlight**”, we are refocusing and repositioning our “spotlight” on MBZ Scottsdale Service “Mercedes-Benz Specialist” They are located at 7279 E Adobe Dr Suite 110 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 (Just East of the Cobblestone Car Wash and the Pet Resort on Scottsdale Rd and Adobe)

MBZ Scottsdale Service is independently owned and operated by Zach Peterson. Zach opened the shop in 2016. The mission of MBZ is to provide dealership level service and repairs for Mercedes Benz autos at a fraction of the cost of the dealership. (Typically, 30-50% less)

Q: Zach tell us a little bit about yourself and MBZ Scottsdale Service

A: (Zach) I started my automotive career attending Universal Technical Institute, and Mercedes Benz Elite Training in 1998. After the Mercedes Benz Elite Training Program, I started working as a technician at the local Mercedes Benz dealership and earned the title Mercedes Benz Master Certified. My career direction changed when I learned that the family owned dealership that I worked for was being sold out to a large corporation. I had always appreciated working for a family run business and decided why not open my own family owned shop and provide dealership level service at a fraction of the cost of the dealer. After opening 4 years ago I have hired some of the best technicians I have ever worked with and combined we have over 100 years of technical Mercedes Benz experience.

Q: What are the main products and services you offer at MBZ Scottsdale Service?

A: (Zach) We are a full service Mercedes Benz dealership alternative which means we can handle any repair or maintenance your Mercedes Benz requires. Typically, we specialize in Mercedes vehicles manufactured after 1995 and newer.

Q: Are there any special qualifications that MBZ Scottsdale Service has?

A: (Zach) We are all Mercedes Benz Master Certified. Tad (our Shop Foreman) is Mercedes Benz AMG Certified. What do these certifications mean? Between the four of us we have thousands of training credits from attending Mercedes Benz training schools all over the country making us experts in our field.

Q: Besides service and repairs for Mercedes Benz what other services do you offer?

A: (Zach) A few repairs that clients don't realize that we offer is roadside assistance in and around the Scottsdale area, windshield replacement, window tinting, upholstery repair/replacement, alignments, wheel repair/refinishing, detailing, dent removal, minor body/painting repairs, and we do also service and repair Sprinter vans.

Q: Do you offer loaner cars or any transportation to your clients?

A: (Zach) We offer a few different options to help our clients if dropping off their vehicle and need transportation. We do offer complimentary rides home if you live near the shop. If you need a loaner car Enterprise Rental Car on Hayden and Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd will come pick you up at our location and the client can rent an economy car for around \$30/day. We have implemented a concierge service for pick-up and delivery of your vehicle. (A small fee may apply for the service depending on how far the vehicle is away from the shop and what service or repair we are performing on the vehicle) If none of those options work Uber is always a good resource.

Q: Tell us more about yourself, and what you like to do away from the shop?

A: (Zach) I am married and have a 14 year old daughter. We spend our time together mountain biking, boating, and hiking.

Q: What sets your shop apart from other repair shops?

A: (Zach) I would say the biggest thing that sets us apart from other shops is our team. We have over 100 years combined factory Mercedes Benz training. We all genuinely care about our customers, our shop, and our community. We all work as a team to provide the best service possible to our clients every time! We have factory equipment purchased from Mercedes Benz which allows us to diagnose and program the most sophisticated cars in the world. We pay Mercedes Benz a yearly fee for access to Net Star which gives us everything the dealership has from work instructions, to technical bulletins.

Q: What are your business hours?

A: We are open Monday thru Friday from 7:30am to 5:30pm. We do have a night drop box if dropping off your vehicle before we open and we can arrange after hour pick up if needed.



Q: Anything else you want our MBCA members to know about MBZ Scottsdale Service?

A: (Zach) We would like to let all of the MBCA members know that we appreciate your business and support! We know you have other options when servicing and repairing your Mercedes Benz and for the many of you that have chosen us, we are very thankful. We will continue to strive to be the best Mercedes Benz repair shop in the valley with the most competitive pricing. Our number 1 goal is customer satisfaction and fixing or servicing your vehicle right the first time. If you haven't had a chance to visit our shop feel free to stop by anytime for a quick tour or just to say hi! For those of you that have not used our service we do offer a new client discount of 10% off up to \$150 on top of our already very competitive pricing. Come check us out you won't be disappointed!

MBZ Scottsdale Service can be reached at 480-473-4722 (Phone), 480-900-1987 (Text), or by email at Zach@mbzscottsdalervice.com, or Carl@mbzscottsdalervice.com. Be sure to also check them out on the web at <http://www.mbzscottsdalervice.com> <https://www.facebook.com/mbzscottsdale> https://www.instagram.com/mbz_scottsdale_service/

Thank You MBZ Scottsdale Service for your continued support of MBCA and Desert Stars!

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MBCA-Executive Director's Message

Membership Rebate

MBCA has partnered with Mercedes-Benz USA to introduce a new Member Rebate program. Active primary members are eligible for exclusive savings, in some cases up to \$3,000 on 2020 models, on the lease or purchase of select Mercedes-Benz vehicles. The rebate incentives are available only for qualified customers on certain 2019 and 2020 Mercedes-Benz models.

This new member benefit is available immediately upon joining the club. Current primary members can take instantaneous advantage of the Member Rebate program. If you're exploring the lease or purchase of a new Mercedes-Benz, be sure to mention the Mercedes-Benz Club of America program to your Mercedes-Benz dealer to see if you qualify for any savings.

If you qualify, then you will need to generate and present a control number, which is specific to you, to the Mercedes-Benz dealer. You can obtain a control number by signing into your member account (<https://www.mbca.org/user/login>) and clicking on the Member Rebate artwork located on your member profile page. Scroll down towards the bottom of the page and click on the red Generate MBUSA Rebate Number button. Give this control number to your Mercedes-Benz dealer.

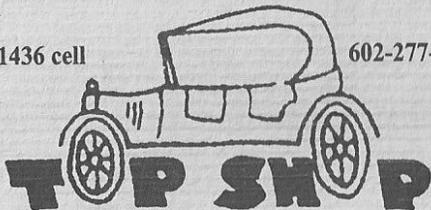
The control number is valid for the current calendar year, expires on the last day of the year, and is only valid for the purchase or lease of one vehicle. After the control number expires, active primary members can create a new number for the following calendar years.

The Member Rebate incentives may change and update every monthly. To view current savings, visit <https://www.mbca.org/mbusa-incentives>.

The Member Rebate program is **replacing** the MBCA Loyalty Rewards program. The MBCA Loyalty Rewards program is no longer offered and replaced with this more improved Member Rebate program. Certificates generated under the MBCA Loyalty Rewards program are no longer valid and are not combinable with the Member Rebate program.

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Formula 1 update

Congratulations to Lewis Hamilton for his 89th Grand Prix win. The latest win was August 30th at the Belgian Grand Prix at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps



Havasupai
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Name(s) registering: _____

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Local Car Culture: Ongoing Events and Gatherings

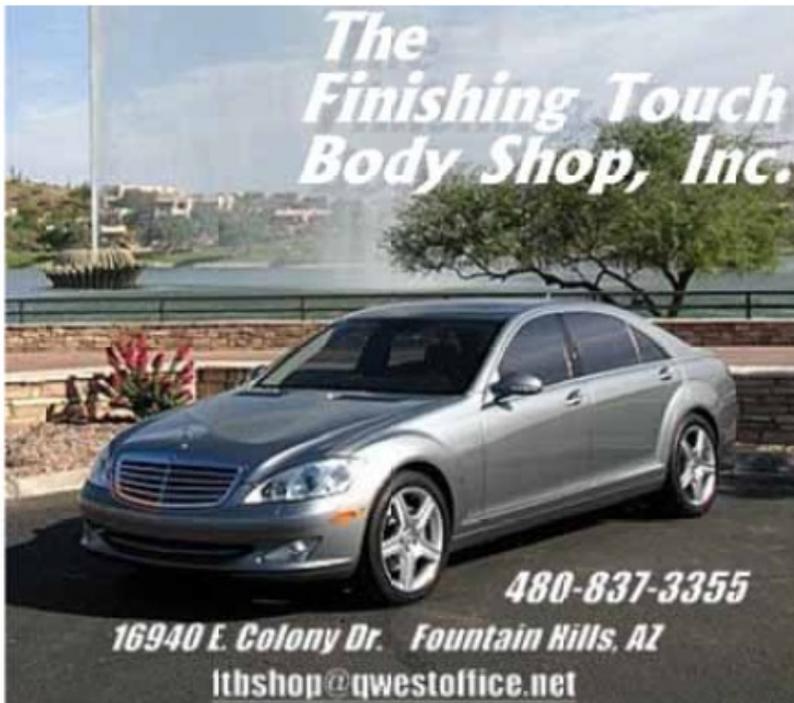
Many of these events have been cancelled and are in process of being rescheduled due to covid19. Updates will follow in future editions

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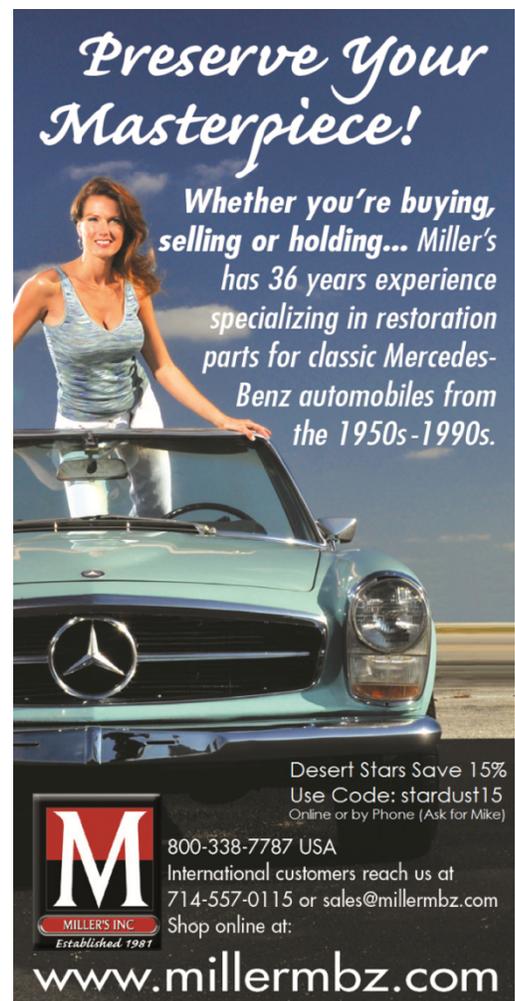


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Contact our Membership Chair, Debbie Ichiyama, at 480-268-9535 or dichiyama@me.com

SAVE THESE DATES

TBD
Oct 17
Dec 6

Sat
Sun

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

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