



# THE STARDUST

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

## Poker Run

Saturday, February 22, 2013 at 1:30pm  
By Harman and Susan Cadis

Get ready for some fun Poker Action! Don't worry you don't need to bet or bluff your way to the winners circle. Just enjoy the day driving to interesting places and eating goodies with your friends in Desert Stars.

This year we have a great event planned. There will be interesting cars to see, great locations to explore and a hidden jewel outdoor patio restaurant with wonderful sunset views to take in along with enjoyable friends and fellow car enthusiasts. Though this is Harman and Susan Cadis' first attempt at hosting this kind of event, they are no strangers to planning a good time for all!



pok · er run /'pökər rən/  
noun: An organized event where participants visit checkpoints drawing playing cards at each one.

We plan to start at 1:30 PM, Saturday February 22 in Scottsdale and eat and drink (wine taste) our way to southeast valley and end up at a fabulous golf course restaurant to watch the sunset and have dinner.

The registration form is included on page seven. If you are interested in joining us please complete the form and send to Debbie Ichiyama with your payment. The registration fee includes goodies, prizes and sunset "heavy hors d'oeuvres." A full bar and restaurant is available, self-pay, should you desire it.

For more information contact Harman Cadis, at Harman@FocusHOA.com, or call us at: 480-242-8087.

## Annual Family Picnic

Sunday March 16, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
By Dee Cloninger

It's that time of the year again. We all had a great time last year and hope you will all come out once again for a day of fun, food and games.

Located at the corner of Scottsdale Road and E. Indian Bend Road, the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park (7301 E. Indian Bend Road in Scottsdale) celebrates Arizona's railroad history. It features two playgrounds, model train exhibits, and both train and carousel rides in a beautiful landscaped park. Tickets for train rides, carousel, gifts and souvenirs are available separately in the park gift shop.

We also have plans for fun and games throughout the day. Back by popular demand will be the Donut Contest along with lots of other games. Kids of all ages should plan to participate in the picnic contests, races and a prize raffle. Don't miss this event! Please RSVP by March 12, 2014.

You can pay by check or credit card see registration form on page eight for details. For more information on the park, visit <http://www.therailroadpark.com/visitor-info>.



## "Show-Off Your Car" Show and Luncheon

April 19, 2014  
By John Phin

Got a beautiful car? A unique car? A reliable family car with tons of history? Share your treasure with other Mercedes Benz enthusiasts at a Mercedes Benz car show and luncheon that will take place on Saturday, April 19, 2014 at the Radisson Fort McDowell Indian Resort & Casino. Or just come to look and mingle! There will be several categories for recognition, including a "People's Choice" Award. We will gather the cars at 11 AM in an area reserved just for us. There will be time to look, vote, and scheme for your next vehicle. An open bar will be set up in our separate

Please see *Show-off* on page 3

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## President's Message

By Bud Cloninger

Happy New Year to all! As our Desert Stars brings in 2014, I'm happy to say that our membership has grown and it's great to see so many new members enjoying themselves. Our activities Directors have also opened the New Year with a Bang! They have changed things up with many exciting new events geared to getting members out of the house, and into their cars. Our newsletter, The Star Dust, has also grown with more articles and photos and may expand in size if this trend continues. As we move into next year, I see exciting times for our club and I wish all of you the best in 2014!



Of all the hard working and dedicated people we have on our Board of Directors, I would like to make mention of one, our treasurer, Richard Sharp. He has just received the M.B.C.A. Southwest Region's highest award, Officer of the Year. Dick and his wife, Mindy, are 27-year veterans of our club. They have both served at one time or another, in every position on our club. From Vice President to Director and I want to congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved award.

Hope to see you at an event soon,

*Bud Cloninger*

## Editor's Notes

By Matthew Crawford

We are always looking for fun and interesting articles to include in The Star Dust. One of our members recently commented on her observations that some of our own beloved cars have an interestingly spontaneous purchase story behind them. How did you come to acquire your Mercedes? Do you have a funny story you'd like to share on how you didn't wake up thinking you'd buy a car that day? Please email me at StarDustMBCA@gmail.com. Thank you for your contributions!

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[www.desertstars.mbca.org](http://www.desertstars.mbca.org)

### Update your email address with The National Office

Contact Membership Chair, Debbie Ichiyama,  
at 480-268-9535 or [dichiyama@me.com](mailto:dichiyama@me.com)

## New Members, "Welcome!"

### October

Paul Jasper  
George Krabbe  
Paul E Schneider  
Richard Whitney

### November

Edwin Link  
Chuck Murphy  
David Sanderson  
Marty Sigmund



*More Than a Car | We're a Community<sup>SM</sup>*

## Desert Stars Section Officers and Board Members

### Officers:

**President:**  
Bud Cloninger (602) 326-6210  
**Vice President:**  
Debbie Ichiyama (480) 268-9535  
**Treasurer:**  
Dick Sharp (480) 661-1325  
**Secretary:**  
Don Burton (480) 832-1504

### Directors:

Andrew Flynn (602) 574-2414  
John Hutchison (480) 473-4887  
Debbie Ichiyama (480) 268-9535  
Mark Ichiyama (808) 341-2099  
John & Roberta Phin (480) 272-8851  
Rich Schulte (401) 225-2090  
Robert Schmelzer (480) 247-3093  
Bob Yoder (480) 998-0194

### Chairs:

**Activities & Events:**  
John & Roberta Phin  
**Membership:**  
Debbie Ichiyama  
**Publicity / Webmaster:**  
Mark Ichiyama  
**News Letter Advertising:**  
Dee Cloninger  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
Matthew Crawford

## Star Night 2.0

By Roberta and John Phin

Bice Scottsdale – February 9, 2014 at 6:00pm

Join fellow Desert Star Members at BiCE Restaurant on Sunday, February 9 at 6:00 PM. BiCE (pronounced bee-chay) is an international chain headquartered in Italy with a ninety year track record of successful operations. Each restaurant features signature dishes from member restaurants around the world. The location is 8700 East Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale at the North East corner at Pima Road. As is our custom, we will order off the menu and separate checks will be provided. RSVP by Feb 1st to John Phin at 480-272-8851 or jgphin@cox.net. No need to call the restaurant as John will make all arrangements for our Star Night.



*"a ninety year track record of success"*

Bink's Midtown - March 8, 2014 at 6:00pm

Join Desert Stars for a Star Night Dinner at 6:00 PM, Saturday, March 8, 2014. Our venue will be Bink's Midtown which is the newest venture for award winning chef Kevin Binkley. Bink's Midtown follows the traditions of the flagship restaurant, Binkley's in Cave Creek in that fresh, locally sourced ingredients are featured in dishes that astonish with their creativity. You will be surprised and delighted by the menu that is consistent with the quality and ingenuity of the flagship but is different enough to be a unique experience in and of itself. As is our custom, we will order off the menu and separate checks will be provided. There is ample valeted parking on site. The address is 2320 E. Osborn, Phoenix. Please call John Phin at 480-272-8851 or by e-Mail to jgphin@cox.net to RSVP. No need to contact the restaurant as John will coordinate our event with Bink's.



*Chef Kevin  
and Amy  
Binkley*



### Show-off from page 1

event room, and a luncheon will be served while we tally votes and announce the selected winners.

The fee per person for the event is \$35, which includes lunch, dessert and coffee or iced tea. Please complete the reservation form for this event included on page eight and let us know what car(s) you will be showing, the number of guests and their luncheon selections. Reservations and payment are due by April 10, 2014.

For questions call John and Roberta Phin at 480-272-8851, or email jgphin@cox.net. Please do not contact the resort directly.

## Germany Trip

July 28, 2014 through August 3, 2014

By Rich Schulte

The Nationally organized MBCA Germany trip is filling up quickly. Desert Stars own Rich Schulte is coordinating a Desert Stars group for this seven day, six night MBCA trip to Germany in July. Feel free to contact Rich at (401) 225-2090 to discuss the week-long journey. Registration is through the NBO by completing a form on the national website, or contact Jim O'Sullivan at osullivanj55@gmail.com or 843-671-2079. Guided tours of multiple Mercedes-Benz facilities, six nights in a five-star hotel, all breakfasts, lunches, dinners, transportation, admissions, tour guides, and a full-time escort are included. \$2,500 fee per person trip is all-inclusive except for airfare. A refundable \$500 deposit (per person) is required to save your place.

### B.E.A.T. Rally – April 12-13, 2014

Listen up! It is time to register for the 2014 British European Auto Tour! This two day run from Phoenix to Flagstaff is in its 17th year and great fun. For those of you who have never attended, this is a time to get those cars out of the winter doldrums and onto the road. The tour departs Phoenix at 6:30am sharp (after receiving your goody bag and directions) on Saturday, April, 12.

Last year, Desert Stars had several members in the 16th running and we would like to have even more turnout this year. There were a total of 140 cars on the B.E.A.T. last year and they are limiting the event to the first 125 paid registrations this year. Registration closes on **March 14, 2014**, hence the rush to register this year. You can go to [www.beataz.com](http://www.beataz.com) and obtain all information and a registration form.

I will be keeping a tally of club members attending. Let me know your name and the number in your party. I will be making reservations in Prescott for us to lunch together at Little America for dinner. I would appreciate it if you would call me at (480) 998-0194 or email at [bobyoderaz@cox.net](mailto:bobyoderaz@cox.net).

By Bob Yoder

THE STAR DUST



# Oei design

Rizal and I are not just advertising Oei design in the Star Dust, we are long time admirers of the Mercedes-Benz brand. We have recently joined the Mercedes Benz Club of America and would like to introduce ourselves.

Oei Design, founded in 1996, specializes in consumer environments and retail entertainment design. Our portfolio is broad and spans numerous industries including retail, restaurant, automotive, exhibit, entertainment, children's specialty retail, and manufacturer's product showrooms.

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# In the Mirror: Holiday Party, Member Recognitions and Toys for Tots Drive

By Debbie Ichiyama & Matthew Crawford

Thank you to all who attended yet another exceptional Holiday Party and Luncheon. Desert Stars members arrived at Talking Stick around noon to a festively decorated room, with not just one, but two Christmas trees. We had green garland strung from the ceiling, festively wrapped gifts on the walls and plenty of 'Toys for Tots' were brought in to make the holidays special for under-privileged children.

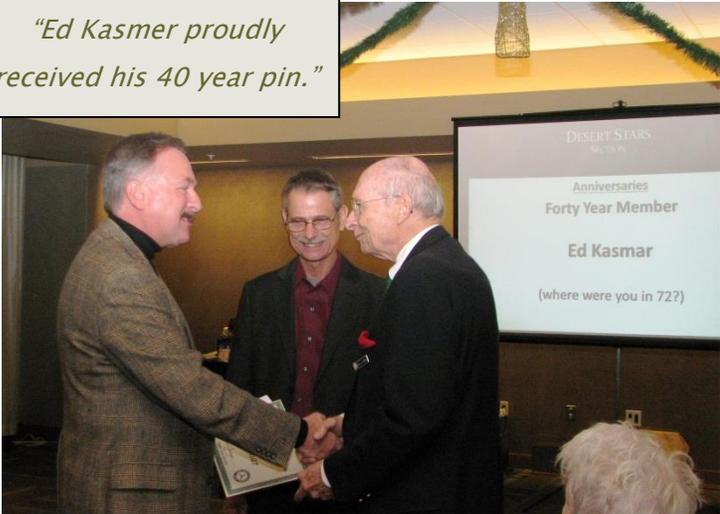
After a nice social hour with camaraderie and cocktails, President Bud Cloninger made his opening remarks just prior to us sitting down. Our wonderful lunch started with a very tasty chicken corn chowder. The guests then enjoyed either a New York strip steak, Dungeness crab cakes or Portobello mushroom ravioli. Of course we all were served up the famous and decadent chocolate marquise for dessert as we enjoyed last year.

After dessert Bud turned our attention to recognizing our member's anniversaries. In five-year increments we always award our members as they achieve milestones in the club membership. Ed Kasmer proudly received his 40 year pin as our longest recognized member in attendance. We then turned our acknowledgment to Don & Brynn Burton who were our members of the year. We were lucky this year to also have the Southwest Region Officer of the Year in our local section. Dick Sharp was recognized for his many years as our Treasurer by our visiting Regional Director, Steve Ross.

As well as collecting Toys for tots, this year we held a 50/50 cash raffle to the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House.

Set to an eclectic holiday music arrangement and a slide show depicting the events over the last year by Mark Ichiyama, the 2013 Desert Stars holiday Party was a fun time for all! Thank you for attending!

*"Ed Kasmer proudly received his 40 year pin."*



Chuck Stanford, Jr., Bud Cloninger, and Ed Kasmar



Officer of the Year, Dick Sharp with Bud Cloninger and Steve Ross



Members Kathy and Carey Hobson enjoying the day!

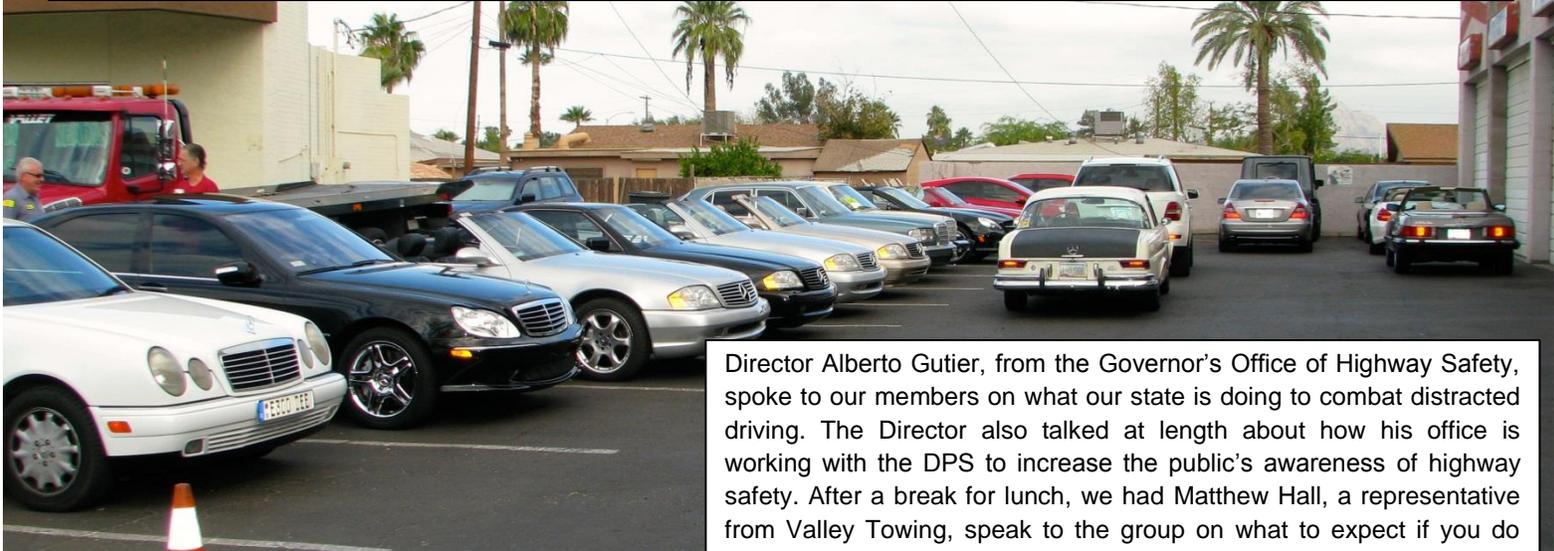


Members of the Year, Brynn & Don Burton

# In the Mirror: Tech Session “Are You Prepared?”

By Bud Cloninger

This year’s tech session was very well attended, with over thirty members turning out for this event. We started the session with how to prepare your car for an extended trip: everything from tools, spare tires and basic maintenance checks before getting out on the road. After discussing the car itself, we transitioned to preparing the driver, from carrying extra water to seating and mirror positions were covered to help make it a comfortable and safe trip. Officer Zenke from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) addressed our members and presented a slide show on the dangers out on the highway, particularly the hazards and consequences of impaired driving.



Director Alberto Gutier, from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, spoke to our members on what our state is doing to combat distracted driving. The Director also talked at length about how his office is working with the DPS to increase the public’s awareness of highway safety. After a break for lunch, we had Matthew Hall, a representative from Valley Towing, speak to the group on what to expect if you do break down and need to be towed. Matthew also related his first hand experiences of the dangers that exist out on our highways and ways you can protect yourself if you break down. In all, it was a very informative event. Every member learned how to be a safer and more prepared driver. I would like to thank The Governor’s Office, DPS and Valley Towing for making this event a great success.



DPS Officer Zenke



Director Alberto Gutier  
Governor’s Office of  
Highway Safety



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 www.valleytlc.com

Matthew Hall, Valley Towing

**EZ2C**  
 Image Detailing

Top Valley References

- The Toy Box
- Scottsdale International Auto Museum
- GRG
- MB Motors

**John**  
 602-793-6335  
 Water Conservationist

## Poker Run Saturday February 22, 2014

Please mail by February 10:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$30.00 per person. For questions contact Harman or Susan Cadis 480-242-8087.

**Credit Card payments available:** call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

Or make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:

**MBCA Desert Stars c/o Debbie Ichiyama  
6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254**

### Classifieds:



**1972 280 SE 4.5 by member Cliff Warren 480-391-9231**

Classic M-B in excellent condition. With 105,000 miles and always garaged, the car was originally purchased in San Francisco and brought to Scottsdale about 18 years ago. All component operational, original Becker radio, factory AC and custom paint. Service records available. Price \$12,450.



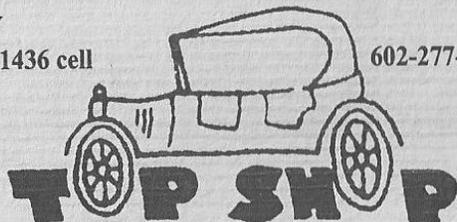
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 Mobile: 480-720-2832

**Registration Forms**

**Family Picnic  
 Sunday March 16, 2014**

Please RSVP by March 12:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$15.00 per person. "Family Deal," four for \$50.00. Kids under 5 years old free.

**Credit Card payments available:** call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

Or make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:  
**MBCA Desert Stars c/o Debbie Ichiyama**  
**6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254**

**Show Off Your Car  
 Saturday April 19, 2014**

Please register by April 10, 2014:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Day or Night

Car (s) for Show: Model number and year \_\_\_\_\_ Model number and year \_\_\_\_\_

You must **make your entree selection** with this registration. Please provide the quantity, per person:

Beef Colorado tossed in Mild Red Chili Sauce \_\_\_\_\_ Green Chili Pork \_\_\_\_\_ Asian Chicken Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Call John and Roberta Phin with any questions at (480) 272-8851.  
 \$35.00 per person. Credit Card payments available: Call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

Or make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:  
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## THE STARDUST

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

### SAVE THESE DATES!!!

January 4, 2014	Saturday	Airpark Collision - Breakfast and Plastic Part Repair
January 18, 2014	Saturday	MB Enthusiasts Dinner
February 9, 2014	Sunday	StarNight 2.0 - Bice Scottsdale
February 22, 2014	Saturday	Poker Run
March 8, 2014	Sunday	StarNight 2.0 - Bink's Midtown
March 16, 2014	Sunday	Family Picnic-McCormick RR Park, Scottsdale
April 12-13, 2014	Weekend	B.E.A.T. Rally
April 19, 2014	Saturday	"Show Off Your Car" Show and Luncheon
April 25, 2014	Friday	StarNight 2.0 – TBD
May 4, 2014	Sunday	Desert Stars Annual Meeting
May 24-26, 2014	Weekend	Memorial Day Weekend in Tucson/ Kitt Peak

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