



# THE STARDUST

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Sept-Oct 2015



## Death Valley Adventure

Fri - Sunday October 16-18, 2015

By Dick Sharp

Dear Adventurers! Group booking for Hotels and restaurants are set. Dick Sharp's trip through Death Valley will take you to the largest national park with a diverse landscape ranging from 3000 feet above sea level to 280 feet below sea level. But don't worry, you need not be SCUBA certified for this journey!

We will meet in Boulder City on Friday, October 16. After checking in to the hotel we will we will meet for happy hour 5:00 p.m. at Hemenway Park which is about 5 min. from the hotel. The park is known for great views of Lake Mead and you can also see big horn sheep. Bring snacks

Left: *General Store, Stovepipe Wells Village*

or a dish to pass around as well as drinks you may enjoy.

On Saturday, after breakfast at the hotel, we will caravan at 7:30 a.m. to Death Valley to see the sights. We will be on paved roads and not doing any strenuous hiking, however we will be spending a lot of time in the cars. We will stop for buffet lunch at Furnace Creek Ranch. After lunch we will proceed to more sights and eventually check into our hotel in the middle of Death Valley at Stovepipe Wells where we have dinner at the western themed Tollroad Restaurant. There will also be a general store, the Badwater Saloon to wet your whistle!

Sunday Oct. 18th You are on your own to do more exploring or meander back home at your own pace.

Contact Dick at richardsharp31@gmail.com if you are interested. Credit card Payments available: call Debbie at 480-268-9535. Payment must be made to Debbie Ichiyama by September 12th.



## Tech Session: Airpark Collision Center

Saturday, November 14, 2015

By John & Roberta Phin

"Things that go bump in the night." Most Desert Stars have had the misfortune at some time of a parking lot door ding, a crunched fender, curbed wheel or "road rash". Airpark Collision Center of Scottsdale is a full-service body and refinish facility, and they will have samples, materials, and physical examples to share with our group regarding their specialties. Their staff will present a comprehensive Technical Session depicting a step-by-step repair of a panel, an analysis of the opportunities and limitations of "paint-less dent removal", a discussion of finish care in general, installation and capabilities of "clear bras", the possibilities of alloy wheel repair and refinishing and perhaps most important, repair versus replace decisions and strategies for negotiating with insurance companies to assure that OE or at least, OEM parts are utilized and thus assure vehicle value is maintained.

The session will start at 9:00 AM and a catered lunch will be served at noon. Airpark Collision Center is a long-term supporter of the Desert Stars and is...

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## President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

I wanted to share with you a change that affects the Mercedes Club of America Southwest Region. Below is an email that I received from Steve Ross:

*Most of you may be aware that I am stepping down as your Regional Director (RD) as I am going to be a Director at Large.*

*This will leave our region without an RD. A new RD will be selected from within the ranks of our region. Request that you get the word out to your sections and let them know that the position is open and any member in good standing may run for RD including you. The new RD will be selected by the National Board at the board meeting in November.*

*Thank you,*

*Steve*

We in the Desert Stars Section will miss Steve as our Regional Director and I am sure you will join me in wishing him all the best in his position within MBCA.



*Debbie*

### Update your email address with The National Business Office

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

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#### Newsletter Editor:

Matthew Crawford

• Email [StarDustMBCA@gmail.com](mailto:StarDustMBCA@gmail.com)

#### Contributing Credits for this Issue:

Ron and Rhonda Borino

Ken Borowitz

Matthew Crawford

Debbie & Mark Ichiyama

John & Roberta Phin

#### Photography Credits for this issue:

Ron and Rhonda Borino

Matthew and Rebecca Crawford

William Hopper

Debbie & Mark Ichiyama

Christina Mattingly

John & Roberta Phin

Airpark Collision Center

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experiencescottsdale.com

MBCA.org

Mercedes-Benz

#### Advertising Manager:

Ken Borowitz

• Email [kborowitz53@gmail.com](mailto:kborowitz53@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: [DesertStarsMBCA](https://www.facebook.com/DesertStarsMBCA)

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## New Members, "Welcome!"



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

### June

John Baker

John Dearing

Glenn Johnson

Jeff Oltman

Robert Steele

### July

Howard Brodbeck

Ted Corse

Raymond Dolan

Mihai Dumitrascu

Robert Gawlik

Rick Harray

Ryland Holeman

Dean Jacobson

Jeff Morgan

Harold Richter

## Desert Stars Section Officers and Board Members

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Bob Yoder (480) 998-0194

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Dick Sharp (480) 661-1325

##### Secretary:

Don Burton (480) 832-1504

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Matthew Crawford (480) 704-3456

Rich Schulte (401) 225-2090

Robert Schmelzer (480) 247-3093

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#### Chairs:

##### Activities & Events:

John & Roberta Phin

##### Membership:

Debbie Ichiyama

##### Publicity / Webmaster:

Mark Ichiyama

##### News Letter Advertising:

Ken Borowitz

##### Newsletter Editor:

Matthew Crawford

## Star Night 2.0

By Roberta and John Phin

Rusconi's American Kitchen, Sunday October 25, 2015 at 6 PM

Join Desert Stars on Sunday, October 25 at Rusconi's American Kitchen for regional American cuisine. The menu changes frequently depending on ingredients that are sourced as excellent and in season befitting the culinary tradition of an institute-educated chef. Rusconi has on his resume Arizona Culinary Hall of Fame recognition, Mobil 4 star Awards, Trip Advisor Certificates of Excellence, Open Table Diner's Choice Awards and perhaps, most relevant to Desert Stars members, revitalizing the kitchen at LON's at the Hermosa Inn where we have had many excellent culinary experiences. For this event, we will order from a limited menu; \$43 plus tax and tip paid at the restaurant covers a starter, entrée and dessert. At this time, mouthwatering appetizer choices include "chilled avocado and spicy cucumber soup with gulf shrimp, cilantro and coconut" plus two other choices. Entrees include a beef tenderloin choice, grilled Scottish salmon, and a vegetarian choice. Choose from three desserts...sure to please. Please RSVP timely by October 17, to John and Roberta at [jgphin@cox.net](mailto:jgphin@cox.net) or 480-272-8851. No need to call the restaurant as the Phin's are handling arrangements. The restaurant is located at 10637 N. Tatum, Phoenix which is at the North East corner of Tatum and Shea and we will be seated at 6:00 expeditiously due to the logistics of the venue.



ACC from Page 1

located at 7333 E. Butherus Drive, Suite A-200, Scottsdale. RSVP before November 7th to John and Roberta Phin at 480-272-8851 or [jgphin@cox.net](mailto:jgphin@cox.net). The cost is \$15 per person to cover the luncheon. Complete the registration form in this issue (page 8) and send your check payable to MBCA Desert Stars, or to pay by credit card call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.



## Volunteers Needed for the Arizona Concours

By Chuck Stanford

The Arizona Concours d'Elegance, to be held January 24, 2016 on the beautiful grounds of the Arizona Biltmore Hotel and Resort, is looking for volunteers to help as class and entrant hosts and in various day-of-event roles including hospitality, field management and the awards ceremony. The Arizona Concours, co-founded by our own Desert Stars Chuck Stanford and Kevin Cornish, is a totally volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that benefits Make-A-Wish® Arizona, the founding chapter of the national organization that grants wishes for children facing life-threatening medical conditions.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please call Chuck at 602-549-4789 or go to [www.ArizonaConcours.com](http://www.ArizonaConcours.com) where you can apply on-line.



## Holiday Party Time

Sunday, December 6, 2015

By Debbie Ichiyama

The holidays will be here before we know it. So do you know what that means? It's time for the Desert Stars Annual Holiday Party with the always important Member Anniversary recognition celebration. It is time to reflect back on 2015 as we spend time with friends and fellow members catch up, and welcome in the spirit of the holidays.

Once again Mr. Zoran Klisara, owner of Tommy V's Urban Kitchen and Bar, has offered to open his restaurant exclusively for the Desert Stars for our annual party. Normally they do not open until 4pm on Sundays, however for us they are opening at lunchtime so we may celebrate. We will have the whole place to ourselves, with a specialized menu for our enjoyment. Tommy V's is located in the heart of downtown Scottsdale with its own parking lot right in front of the restaurant. So there is no need to hunt for parking spaces in Old Town. In fact, the location of the restaurant is perfectly suited for an afternoon of holiday shopping after lunch. Nearby are all of the local Western and Arizona themed stores for you to pick up a gift or two for friends and family.

We hope you will join your Mercedes-Benz club for an always-enjoyable lunch. Oh, don't forget we are collecting for Toys for Tots so please bring an un-wrapped gift! More details and registration information will appear in the next newsletter. In the meantime, if you want more info please contact Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535.

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*Above: Scenes from Holiday Luncheons Past*

*Chuck Stanford, our own emcee, always does a fantastic job with the membership recognition ceremony. In five-year increments, Desert Stars members are recognized and given a small token of appreciation. Ed Kasmar received his 40 year pin in 2013.*

*Are you eligible for a pin? Come to lunch and find out!*

## In The Mirror: Tour to Prescott, Arizona June 20-12, 2015

May 30, 2015

By John & Roberta Phin



Desert Stars Section members met at Schumacher Mercedes-Benz for a welcoming breakfast. After walking the dealer floor we began our tour, beginning first across the desert to Wickenburg and then north to Prescott through the quaint Arizona towns of Congress and Yarnell. We climbed about 5,000 feet on a dramatically winding road into the pine forests of the Prescott National Forest. In Prescott, we met for lunch on the patio of the historic Gurley Street Grill. Coincidentally, the Mile High Brewfest was being held at the Courthouse Square across from the Grill! Several members enjoyed the fest while others shopped around the Square or enjoyed the historic sights of this prior capital of Arizona. Many of us stayed at the lovely and historic Hasayampa Inn, also an easy walk (see the pattern?) and from there walked to dinner at Bin 239. Daytime temperatures were at least 15 degrees cooler than the Phoenix Valley, and the evening chilled down to a lovely 65 degrees. All in all, we had a great time enjoying each other's company and the drive, sights and cuisine of this historic Arizona city.



*Above: Big thanks to Schumacher for the venue and the photo!*

*Right: What we came for, lunch and great company*



*Left: More members posing for the camera  
Above: This may have happened...  
Below: A fun road ahead when you see that sign!*



*Left: Do you think that E55, CL63, and this camera car, an S55, hung behind those ML's for long? ©*

*Below: Bob Yoder and Matt Crawford may have joined the Red Hat Society of Prescott*



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**Tech Session: Airpark Collision Center  
November 14, 2015**

**Please Register and Pay by November 7, 2015**

**Contact Information:**

Name(s) registering: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: State/Prov.: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/ Night \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 per person. Registration Fee includes lunch.



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

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

**A SPECIAL MENTION**

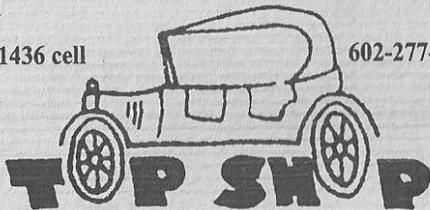
Each year the International Society for Vehicle Presentation recognizes automotive related work which has been published, broadcast, or otherwise posted. This year, One of Desert Stars own, Andrew Atwood, was recognized for an article he wrote for *The Star* on Structural Metal Work in restoration.

Cheers, Andrew, and thank you for sharing your passion!

Photo courtesy William Hopper, Greater Washington (D.C.) Section (reflected!)

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# In The Mirror: Rock and Roll Car Show and dinner at The Pink Pony

July 18, 2015

By John & Roberta Phin

The afternoon was splendid; the rain held back, and due to the overcast sky it was actually not TOO hot in Scottsdale in July. Fifteen Desert Stars' cars comprised the largest brand representation at the July 18th Rock and Roll Car show at the Pavilions Center in Scottsdale. We showed 107 and 129 SLs, an E Coupe and Sedan, a W123 sedan and several family hauler SUVs in both M and G classes.

Members brought non-Mercedes cars as well, including smart cars, perhaps in consideration of the threatening weather.



*Above: It wouldn't be a car show without some Mercedes SL's!*  
*Left: Lisa, Christina and Joe pose by the GL*  
*Below: The E-class coupe, always elegant in black*



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More photos from *The Rock and Roll Car Show!*



*Above: The Pink Pony serves up a tasty dish  
Left: Terry Horne and his R170 SLK looking sharp*

Needless to say, our cars drew a lot of attention from other show participants, which was very reinforcing. Then the thirty members attending made their way to the Pink Pony Restaurant. We had our own dining room and spent the rest of the evening enjoying the excellent dining experience and the camaraderie of fellow Mercedes enthusiasts. It was a great way to spend a “not too hot” afternoon and evening in the desert.

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**Classifieds**



Cream Puff 300SE, Lady-owned very low 75,938 miles. No leaks. Drives great. New water pump, pulleys, radiator and hoses. Small dent right front fender and door. Sheepskins are in good condition, and leather seats underneath are like new. Car is beautiful with factory chrome wheels. Mercedes CD player/radio with Bose factory 8-speaker sound system. Sunroof. Interior near perfect, and always garage kept. No cracks on dash. It is very hard to find a 1990 this clean. Gets plenty of LOOKS and DRIVES FANTASTIC. \$3,950.00. Contact Pete. [pand1@cox.net](mailto:pand1@cox.net)



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**Do you know all of the perks of being a member?**

One of the many benefits that your Desert Stars section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America offers you is complimentary advertising for your Mercedes-Benz. A while ago the board decided it was a nice benefit to offer our members and we are happy to help. If you have a Mercedes-Benz you are looking to sell, please contact Ken Borowitz our advertising Chairman and he will assist you. See Page 2 for his contact information.

**Update your email address with The National Business Office**

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



1972 300SEL 4.5 180 silver grey metallic, 246 grey leather, automatic w/floor shift, Becker radio, auto antenna, Thermo King A/C, P/S, PDB, all systems working and in good order. 87K miles, ready to drive and enjoy. All paperwork on hand, \$15,900. Call for more information. Rich Schulte 401-225-2090 or email at [rdsshep@aol.com](mailto:rdsshep@aol.com)



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# THE STARDUST

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## THE STARDUST

SEPT-OCT 2015

### SAVE THESE DATES!!!

<b>September 18-20, 2015</b>	<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Havasupai</b>
<b>October 16-18, 2015</b>	<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Death Valley National Park</b>
<b>October 25, 2015</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Star Night 2.0 Rusconi's American Kitchen</b>
<b>November 14, 2015</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Tech Session hosted by Airpark Collision</b>
<b>December 6, 2015</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b>
<b>January 30, 2016</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>MB Enthusiast Dinner</b>
<b>February TBD, 2016</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Annual Poker Run</b>



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