



114 DEGREES



ESCAPE THE HEAT

Escape the Heat in Flagstaff

Saturday – Sunday, August 13-14, 2016

By John and Roberta Phin

It is HOT out there, so now that you have had your first taste of summer, just maybe you have an enhanced appreciation of the benefits of an “Escape the Heat weekend”. We already have a great group of Desert Stars signed up, rooms reserved and everything! There is still room for a few more, but we need to hear from you now, as the venues have some limits.

We have arranged a great group rate at Little America, king bed rooms, and plan to meet up on Saturday August 13 to tour around the Flagstaff area, hit the ski trails at Snow Bowl which are green and lush in the summer, have lunch, drive some more, tour the Lowell Observatory, enjoy

dinner in a great Flagstaff restaurant...and more.

The room rate will pertain to optional arrival on Friday August 12 or Sunday August 14, for those who need to escape just a little sooner or stay a bit longer.

For those arriving Friday night, August 12, we have arranged for dinner at Josephine’s, located just blocks from historic downtown and housed in a craftsman cottage that has been recognized for its historic and iconic design. The cuisine features a wide selection of American fare with the menu frequently updated by a “Chef of the Year” designee to showcase the best produce and seafood the season has to offer. And the extensive wine list has been recognized for its excellence by the Wine Spectator.

On Saturday, we will gather at 11:15AM at Little America, distribute route directions, and head out to Snow Bowl to savor the cool pine environment and enjoy lunch. This is the only pre-paid meal, and we will be in touch with registrants to let them know how much and who to pay. Off to the Lowell Observatory for an educational tour.

Havasupai 2016: “Chocolate Rallye”

Please see *Too Hot!* on page 4

Saturday, Sept 24

By John and Roberta Phin



The Desert Stars Annual Rallye will be a one day Havasupai Event. We will combine education, a rallye challenge, and CHOCOLATE. We will explore Chocolates from around the world, while staying right here in the valley. We will learn how chocolate is grown and converted into the confections we love, we will taste examples of fine chocolate and some of the creative combinations that tempt and delight. We will even do a wine and chocolate pairing to complete our education. The rallye will be fun and friendly, so everyone will enjoy the day and be on time to the tastings. Our day will end with a group dinner and prizes awarded to the rallye winners.

The history of chocolate begins in ...

Please see *Chocolate Rallye* on page 6

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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

As we are now in the mid point of 2016, I look back at the first half and reflect upon our great events. I am very happy to see a great mix of regular and new events and more importantly a lot of new members who have come out to join us. We have had some new events this year such as the M-Beat Tour. I know my husband was so happy to be able make the drive in his 190E 2.3-16 and enjoy the twists and turns of the back roads up to Flagstaff, behind Vice President Bob Yoder's red AMG SLS Roadster.

I look forward to the events for the second half of the year including a revamped Escape the Heat event coming up in August, the Havasupai Rally in September and a drive to California for some wine tasting in October. Please be sure to check for details for future events in the Newsletter and also check out the Save These Dates page.



Debbie

Update your email address with The National Business Office

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

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New Members, "Welcome!"



*More Than a Car
We're a CommunitySM*

April

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Toby Clark
Robert Elam

Carlos & Shellie Garcia
Patricia Miller
Nigel Upton

May

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Rocky Mountain Regional Event

September 9-11, 2016

By Michael H. Davison, Rocky Mountain Regional Director

You are cordially invited to join members from other regions and sections in a fascinating drive to Mesa Verde National Park and Four Corners Monument.

Your event fee will include Hospitality Socials Friday and Saturday evenings with snacks and drinks provided plus event prizes.

Extra expenses to be expected: Discounted hotel room (Holiday Inn at \$100 a night - breakfast included), Friday and Saturday dinners, Saturday lunch, park entry fee \$10 per car (if you lack a senior pass), optional park tour \$4 per person, and Four Corners access fee \$5 per person.

Place your own hotel reservation on or before August 9 to secure the discounted group rate. A block of rooms has been set aside for the Mercedes-Benz Club but with no individual reservations.

To reserve your place make out your event fee check of \$35 per person to:

MBCA, Mile-High Section. Mail the check before July 25 to Michael Davison, 7324 East Fremont Drive, Centennial, Colorado 80112. Email for more information: mhd539@msn.com.

Please note your MBCA Section, mailing address, email address and whether you want the later detailed instructions sent as a PDF, MS-Word file or via US Mail.

This promises to be an interesting and fun event. Please join us. Thank you.



Star Night 2.0

Sunday November 6, at 5:30 PM at Buck and Rider

By Roberta and John Phin

Join The Desert Stars for a Star Night dinner at Buck and Rider, a new seafood restaurant at 4225 E. Camelback Road in Phoenix. The food is great with a variety of fresh seafood and a raw bar that really excels. Other offerings include sushi, to-die-for desserts and non-seafood entrees. There are often beverage specials on Sunday night so that is our chosen day: November 6, at 5:30 PM. Also, there is complimentary valet parking and from experience, they treat our Mercedes-Benz very well.

As is our custom, we will order off the menu and have separate checks. RSVP to John and Roberta at 480-272-8851 or jgphin@cox.net by October 30. There is no need to call the restaurant as John and Roberta are handling the arrangements.

Below; A mere tip of the iceberg of the offerings...



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Too Hot! from Page 1

Saturday night dinner, 5:30 PM, is at Brix Restaurant and Wine Bar in Flagstaff, housed in an historic carriage house. It features locally farmed, sustainable and organic food sourced from partners throughout Arizona and the Four Corners region. Brix has presented creative culinary delights for years and was acknowledged by the Conde Nast Traveler as one of the top culinary destinations as long ago as 2007. The wine list is a strong feature with emphasis on West Coast varietals and Arizona vintners. And after dinner we head back to the Lowell Observatory to do some star gazing, weather permitting.



On Sunday we will leave Little America and head south to Sedona. There are two routes possible: one scenic, winding around mountain sides, and the other more straightforward on highway 17. Pick your route, but meet up at 11:30 AM for lunch at Mariposa, the latest creation of Chef Lisa Dahl. The architecture is spectacular and the views of Sedona's Red Rocks would sell a million post cards. The cuisine is Latin Inspired, primarily from Chef Dahl's interactions with chefs in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. For those who attended Havasupai 2015, you will be familiar with this excellent venue.

If you want to register for this group event, please let us know NOW. There is NO registration form. You must contact us at raphin@cox.net or jgphin@cox.net or 480-272-8851 and let us know of your interest.

Temecula Wine Tasting Tour

October 7-10, 2016

By Dick Sharp & Bob Yoder

Hey Guys, Listen UP!! Join the Desert Stars Section for a Columbus Day weekend trip through SW Arizona and Southern CA ending up at the Vineyards located near the historical town of Temecula.

Our first stop on the tour will be in Yuma, AZ, one of the most historic towns in the Territory. Its history goes back to the late 1700's when Father Eusebio Francisco Kino was the first to recognize the Yuma Crossing as the gateway to California. After Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, the area became part of Mexico's "northern territories". After several different names, it was finally named "Yuma" in 1873. We will meet Friday afternoon around 5:00pm in Yuma, AZ at the La Fuente Inn and Suites for Happy Hour. Please bring some type of snack & bottle of wine. If you are able to arrive earlier in the day, there are a number of attractions for your consideration, such as: the Yuma Territorial Prison State Park, Castle Dome Museum and Ghost Town, Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and other points of interest.

On Saturday morning we will travel in caravan through the Sonoran and Anza Borrego Deserts heading for the historic mountain town of Julian, CA which is a step back in time to the days of the late 1800's gold rush. It is known for its spring wildflowers and autumn apple harvest. Orchards cover the surrounding land, and fall festivals celebrate the harvests. While we are in Julian, you will have time to tour the town and have lunch. After leaving Julian we will head through the mountains, past Palomar Observatory to Temecula, checking in at the Embassy Suites Hotel and have a group dinner in old town.

On Sunday you will have the opportunity to tour and taste at several Vineyards (a list of suggested vineyards which have been "pre-tasted" will be provided) followed by a group dinner in a vineyard setting.

Monday morning, you are free to extend your visit to CA, or to head back to Phoenix, possibly traveling over the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains through Palm Desert to I-10. The event registration fee will include Friday, Saturday & Sunday rooms, happy hours, breakfasts and Saturday & Sunday night dinners the total estimated to be about \$650.00; All other meals, tastings, and other travel costs will be on your own. Please note that we only have been able to pre-reserve 10 rooms in Temecula so please respond quickly by filling out registration form and \$100 deposit. The final payment will be required with registration form in the September October Newsletter.

See Deposit form Page 10.

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Check out our reviews!

Chocolate Rallye from Page 1

Mesoamerica. Fermented beverages made from chocolate date back to 1900 BC. The Aztecs believed that cacao seeds were the gift of Quetzalcoatl, the God of wisdom, and the seeds once had so much value that they were used as a form of currency. After its arrival to Europe in the sixteenth century, sugar was added to it and it became popular throughout society. In the 20th century, chocolate was considered a staple, essential in the rations of United States soldiers at war. The word "chocolate" comes from the Classical Nahuatl word *chocolātl*, and entered the English language from Spanish.

It is therefore fitting that we will begin our education with a tasting of chocolate from Xocolatl. "At Xocolatl, our desire is to create an artistic journey of the senses using the world as our inspiration. We are able to create fine chocolates because we start with the finest ingredients." How does Single Malt Scotch, Mangos Diablo, and Celtic Caramel sound to you! Our host will be Chocolatier Jason Wasser, and this will be held at one of Xocolatl's retailers, Brix Wines, located at 37636 N Tom Darlington Dr, Carefree, AZ. This will be our starting point for the rallye.



Then we will take a kitchen tour and learn more about chocolate at Zak's Chocolate, hosted by owners Maureen and Jim Elitzak. "Zak's Chocolate is a family-owned small-batch craft chocolate maker and an artisan chocolatier. We love chocolate and we love the story and amazing flavors of fine cacao varieties." "At Zak's we roast cocoa beans ethically sourced from different regions and make our own single origin and house blend chocolate to use in bars, truffles and other yummy confections. Everything is done by hand, from sorting cocoa beans to wrapping our bars."

Our last tasting will be a chocolate and wine pairing. Our host for the pairing will be Frederiek Verbeke of Chocolade van Brugge, and will take place at Drexyl, the restaurant where we will dine after the tasting. "Chocolade van Brugge is a traditional Belgian chocolate shop located in the desert of Scottsdale, AZ. Proudly owned by Frederiek and Christine, we are a husband and wife duo dedicated to sharing our love of Belgian culture with you. Chocolade van Brugge is the exclusive North American importer of these fine, high-quality, traditional Belgian chocolates. We offer more than 90 hand crafted chocolate confections, chocolate bars, marzipan, cookies, figurines, and our most recently added liege Belgian waffles."

The restaurant Drexyl is the home of some of Scottsdale's finest modern American cuisine, with seasonal, handcrafted dishes that reflect the melting pot of America, spanning Western- and Eastern-influences. Located at The Shops Gainey Village, 8877 N. Scottsdale Road, Ste 402, this recently renovated restaurant is getting great reviews from satisfied diners! Diner will be ordered off the menu and will be self-pay with separate checks. We will award Havauspai Rallye winners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes, with prizes appropriate to the day's events.

Please register for this event now (deadline September 15, our chocolatiers will need prep time). The fee of \$40 per person covers the chocolate tastings, tour, and wine pairing. This is not just an M&M tasting (as good as that may be); fine chocolates come at a price and you will be getting a taste of chocolates representing the finest the world has to offer. This is a local event, no hotel fees, so go ahead and treat yourself to a day of yummy-ness. The Rallye is a great excuse for indulging ourselves! Mitigate any stress with a chocolate reward. For information contact Roberta and John Phin at raphin@cox.net or jgphin@cox.net or call 480-272-8851. Registration and payment information can be found on page 11. To get starting time and directions you MUST BE REGISTERED.



Desert Stars Tech Session: Car, Child and Pet Safety and Arizona Humane Society Fund Raiser

Saturday Oct 22, 2016

By John and Roberta Phin

Every year Desert Stars provides our members a Tech Session, usually focused on the cars: engineering, repair, maintenance, etc. This year we are providing guidance not only on car safety, but about the safety of our precious cargo – our children, grandchildren and pets. This event is not to be missed! Read on and you shall see why.

Schumacher European has graciously agreed to provide our venue. To start the morning session, a Schumacher staff member will demonstrate the latest Mercedes Benz safety features and there are many. For those of us who remember cars without roll bars, seat belts or air bags, the newest safety features are truly “magical”.

Cristie Robinson, Bilingual Community Relations Specialist, AAA Arizona, will then demonstrate and discuss with us child safety concerns. Ms. Robinson is trained to train us! And there is more to safety than just car seats. So come with questions, or bring your safety equipment for assessment.

Stacey B. Larsen provides Lifestyle Training of Puppies through Adult Dogs. She is versed not only in training the pet, but also working with the pet parents to help us achieve our pet’s safety and desired behavior. Ms. Larsen will demonstrate pet safety, using actual dogs that she uses for this training purpose. This is Ms. Larsen’s business; but it is also her passion. At her suggestion, we are making this event a fund raiser for the Arizona Humane Society. AHS’ mission is “to improve the lives of animals, alleviate their suffering, and elevate their status in society.” Your registration fee will not only cover your lunch, but will include an amount specifically for the AHS.

To round out the event, we will also have a pet adoption event coinciding with our tech session. With all your new skills you might just have to make a dog’s dream come true and take the dog home in your Mercedes Benz! Talk about “elevating the pup’s status in society”!!!

Lunch will be provided. Saturday, October 22, 9:30 AM start, Schumacher European, 18530 North Scottsdale Road, Phoenix. Contact Roberta or John Phin at 480-272-8851, or raphin@cox.net or jgphin@cox.net. The registration form and pricing will be available in the Sept-Oct StarDust newsletter, but we do want to assess attendance for this event, so please contact us if you want to participate.

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In Other Adventures... Two Desert Stars in Long Beach

April, 2016

By John and Marianne Hutchison



Above: Sign was left on top of the building because it has been designated as a "historic landmark". It lights up at night. They have a big M-B three pointed star on the front and side of the building.

At invitation of San Luis Obispo MBCA Section (Rich & Yvonne), Marianne and I went on tour of the M-B Long Beach Vehicle Preparation Center along with 15 or so California Club members. The facility is over a million square feet on 11+ acres which used to be a Boeing/Douglas aircraft factory adjacent to Long Beach airport. Cars are trucked from LB port to center after boat docks. They bring them over in batches of 750-1500 on each trip from Germany. They work on those cars that are already sold first and then handle dealer inventory cars next. Average output is 300 per day.

Cars unloaded from dock trucks and temporarily stored in outside parking lot; every car is assigned a numbered space so they know where to get it. All cars then go through incoming inspection where US books and first aid kits are inserted, US and English navigation installed and checked for damage or if there are supposed to be any accessories installed. Cars are then routed to appropriate area of facility for repair, etc. When car is at top qualification it goes into a holding bay at the north end of the facility for loading on transports. For Priority One cars they try to get them through the process in 10 days.



Unfortunately we couldn't take pictures during the tour in the facility.

Three managers over the process gave us an excellent tour which ended viewing the following new cars: S65 Coupe; G63; GLE63 Coupe; a yet to be released S Cabriolet (which is better looking than the Bentley coupe or convertible; and an S600 Maybach in their lobby.

Charlie Alfano, of the new M-B dealer in Gilbert, hosted us at the center. The new dealership should be open this fall with a grand opening in early November.

We also spent about 4 hours at the newly-remodeled Petersen Auto Museum including their Vault in the basement and a visit to the M-B Classic Center in Irvine. They have a fully-restored 300S for sale at \$685,000 - a steal at that price!

It was a great trip!

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In The Mirror: Desert Stars Annual Meeting

Mary 15, 2016

By Mark Ichiyama



We had a great turnout for our annual meeting luncheon at Seasons 52 Restaurant. The day was perfect, the venue was ideal, the food was delicious and it was a great opportunity to catch up with members and get to welcome some new members who attended the event.

Following the “mingle” time, we gathered for a delicious lunch and were entertained by a slide show recap of the past events and important club information. After lunch we had a short business meeting where President Debbie Ichiyama recapped the past year. Activities Directors John and Roberta Phin gave us a preview of upcoming events this summer and fall.

A plaque was presented to the retiring Director Richard Schulte and an Honorable Mention Award for the Star Dust Newsletter was presented to Matthew Crawford from the club’s National Office.

The election for Officers and new Directors was then held. The Officers are President Debbie Ichiyama, Vice President Bob Yoder, Treasurer Dick Sharp and Secretary Don Burton. New Directors are John and Roberta Phin.

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Temecula Wine Tasting – Oct. 7-10
\$100 Deposit

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night _____ Email Address: _____

Registration including Fri, Sat & Sun rooms, happy hours, breakfasts and Sat & Sun dinner Estimated around \$650. \$100 Deposit Due As soon as possible to lock it in. Contact Dick Sharpe - contact info Page 2.

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:
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Credit Card payments available: Call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

Classifieds



For Sale 1968 MB 280 SL [W-113] chassis #11304412002948. Unrestored example. \$129,000 FOB Portland, OR 3 owners from new less than 56,000 original miles. Documented with a full service history from new to current. Original delivery documents, All original items: Complete tool roll, Becker Europa radio, operating clock, trunk mat, spare tire, tire cover, jack, wheel chock and wheel nut wrench, keys and key fob in MB Tex, soft and hard tops, original 300 SL style horns. Further pics and schedule of judged concours events from 2005 thru 2013 available if interested. Bill Lindquist at 503-203-6240 or email at wql0@comcast.net

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Do you know all of the perks of membership?

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.



*Do you like that? Yeah, you like that. You can have it too.
Fill out the form below...*

Havasupai Rallye and Chocolate Tasting Sat. September 24, 2016

Please Register and Pay by September 15, 2016



Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night Email Address: _____

Cost is \$40 per person. Registrations should be paid by Sept 15th, after that date or for questions call Roberta or John Phin at 480-272-8851.. Call Debbie Ichiyama at (480) 268-9535.

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:
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JULY - AUGUST 2016

Keep your address updated with the
MBCA National Business Office at
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Online at <http://mbca.org>

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

August 13-14, 2016	Weekend	Escape the Heat in Flagstaff
September 9-11, 2016	Fri-Sun	Multi-Regional 4 Corners Tour/Michael Davison
September 24, 2016	Saturday	Havasupai, One Day Rallye and Dinner
October 7-10, 2016	Fri-Mon	Temecula Wine Tasting Tour
October 22, 2016	Saturday	Tech Session at Schumacher European
November 6, 2016	Sunday	StarNight 2.0: Dinner at Buck and Rider
December 4, 2016	Sunday	Holiday Party

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