



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

Saturday Oct 22, 2016, 9:30 AM

By John and Roberta Phin

This year the Desert Stars' Annual Tech Session will provide guidance not only on car safety, but about the safety of our precious cargo – our children, grandchildren and pets. Not only will we be informed, but this Fund Raiser for the AZ Humane Society will give us an opportunity to support a worthy cause and keep it “vehicle related”. This event is not to be missed! Read on and you shall see why.

Schumacher European has once again opened their dealership to support our club. The morning starts with a Schumacher staff member demonstrating 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”.

We will then learn about Child Safety, presented by Cristie Robinson, Bilingual Community Relations Specialist, AAA Arizona. AAA's Foundation for Traffic Safety is committed to saving lives through research and education. 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.

We will conclude the session with Pet Safety training. We have quite a team to instruct us. We will have representatives from the AZ Humane Society (AHS) as well as Stacey B. Larsen, owner of Puppy Prep School, LLC. Ms. Larsen has over 27 years of experience specializing in puppy and lifestyle training. She is a Professional Member of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), a certified C.L.A.S.S. Evaluator for their Canine Life and Social Skills Program (exclusive program for APDT members), a Certified Evaluator for the AKC's Canine Good Citizen Program and AKC Public Education Coordinator.

Ms. Larsen will demonstrate pet safety, using actual dogs that she uses for this training purpose. This is

Please see *Safety* on page 4

Havasupai 2016: “Chocolate Rallye”

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



Please see *Chocolate Rallye* on page 6

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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

A big 'Welcome back!' to all of you Desert Stars who 'escape the heat' of the summer here. You were missed and we look forward to seeing you at events this fall and winter. You missed a few rain storms, some awesome sunsets, and maybe you were not able to share our great weekend stay up with the club in Flagstaff!

It is hard to believe that fall is almost upon us.

Time to think about the end of baseball season, the start of football season, the US Formula 1 Grand Prix, Halloween, and nice long drives (with tops down or sunroofs open) in our awesome state. There is so much to see and no matter what your interests are there is something for everyone.

The club is gearing up for our fall events and hope to see you there.



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*

June

Michael Hilgers
Jeff Kraemer
Kathleen Leo
Robert Richardson
Harlan Wand

July

John Lambrou
Andrew McNeish
Andy Physioc
Don Tailleart
Norman Voigt

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Star Night 2.0

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

By Roberta and John Phin

Join 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 sea food 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



complementary 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 igphin@cox.net by October 30. There is no need to call the restaurant as John and Roberta are handling the arrangements.



ADVANCED NOTICE - Mercedes-Benz Enthusiasts Dinner - ADVANCED NOTICE

Sunday, January 22, 2017



This year our Mercedes-Benz Enthusiasts Dinner will be on **Sunday, January 22, 2017**. The event will return to Maggiano's Little Italy, **16405 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ** for a family style dinner, member car show and informative speakers. We are planning events for auction week as well, with a recap of the excitement at the MB Enthusiasts dinner. Moving the fun to Sunday evening allows us to review the auctions in their entirety, and provides for participants to attend the last auctions of the week. Look for further information in coming newsletters.

– John & Roberta Phin

2017 Concours in the Hills

Saturday February 11 from 10AM - 3PM

By Peter Volny, Concours in the Hills

The show is held in what is undoubtedly the most spectacular setting for a car show in the valley, on the grass around the lake and fountain.

Thanks to two entrances/exits, and a simplified entry procedure, we were able to get all the cars in and out with virtually no delays and everyone seemed to enjoy the show. In fact, we have been contacted by several car clubs that have not participated before but will do so in 2017. There will be more food trucks and more washrooms.

In anticipation of even greater attendance we are making more changes to improve the show and especially to allow more space and less cramming. Plus we have some exciting surprises bound to generate a lot of interest. The town is reseeded any bare areas and will water until the day before the show to minimize dust.

Register now! at www.concoursinthehills.org



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Safety from Page 1

Ms. Larsen’s business; but it is also her passion. She supports the AZ Humane Society in many ways, including driving this fundraiser.

AHS’ mission is to improve the lives of animals, alleviate their suffering, and elevate their status in society. Members from AHS’ Emergency Animal Medical Technician (EAMT) program, one of the only emergency animal ambulance programs in the country, will speak on pet safety, their efforts in disaster relief as the State’s designated responder for animals in natural and manmade disasters, and how they rescue over 10,000 ill,



injured and abused pets each year. They will also share the needs of the EAMT programs disaster relief needs in the coming year, which includes the need for an additional trailer to effectively rescue animals in need from disasters and cases of abuse from throughout Arizona. Following their presentation, they will answer our questions. Your registration fee will

not only cover your lunch, but will include an amount specifically for the AHS. And while we will not have a pet adoption occurring that day, a representative from AHS’ community engagement team will help you with your questions regarding adoptions and AHS’ other programs and services.

Lunch will be provided; the fee is \$25 per person. 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 igphin@cox.net. The registration form is located on page 12 of the newsletter.

Temecula Wine Tasting Tour

October 7-10, 2016 – Columbus Day

By Dick Sharp & Bob Yoder

Reminder!! 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



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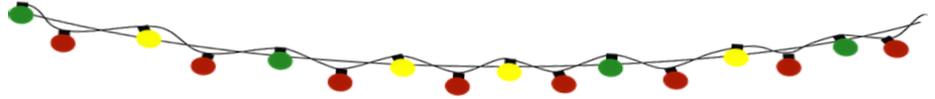
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Holiday Party & Lunch

December 4, 2016

By Debbie Ichiyama



The holidays will be here before we know it. Clear the 4th of December because the Desert Stars **Annual Holiday Party** - with the always-important member anniversary recognition celebration – is here! It is time to reflect back on 2016 as we spend time with friends and fellow members catch up, and welcome in the spirit of the holidays.

We had such a wonderful time last year. So once again, Tommy V's Urban Kitchen and Bar in Old Town Scottsdale, is being opened up exclusively for us by Mr. Zoran Klisara, proprietor. We will have the whole place to ourselves, with its own parking lot right in front of the restaurant. There is no need to hunt for parking spaces in Old Town! We will enjoy our own private bartender and we have a specialized menu for our enjoyment.

Afterwards, the location of the restaurant is perfectly suited for an afternoon of holiday shopping. Nearby are all of the local Western and Arizona themed stores for you to pick up a gift or two for friends and family.

Important! Anniversary celebrants must attend to receive recognition pins (or you need a really good excuse for not being there!) So we want to see you! Oh, don't forget we are collecting for Toys for Tots so please bring an un-wrapped gift! Please see Registration form on page 9 for details. Make this holiday season a special one by joining your friends in the Desert Stars Mercedes-Benz club.

For more information or to register by phone, contact Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE MILESTONES EARNERS BELOW!

50 Years

Phil Lufy

20 Years

Robert Barker
James Morrison
Ravi Panesar
Peter Rork
Joseph Thompson

10 Years (Cont'd)

Donald Schlueter
Robert Shower
John Vaccaro
D Williams
Patty Yeats

45 Years

Frank Dickey

35 Years

William Kaesche
John Pape

15 Years

Herbert Berman
Thomas Grohmann
Donald Sydow

5 Years

James Anton
Sonny Bienias
Clay Cowgill
Bernie Cygan
Anne Durning
Dorene Fredette
Richard Gunderson
Ernest Harazim
Stephan Hartl
Chuck Jones
Nikolai Khabibulin
Gregory Lau
Ryan Nichols
Deborah Rietman
Karl Roosa
Joseph Swiatek
Alan Wren

30 Years

Donald Bloom
Neal Christensen
Richard Sharp
Robert Sioles
Richard Warneka

10 Years

Ansel Allen
Ike Barr
Andy Billick
Budd Florkiewicz
Robert Goswick
Walter Hann
Phillip Jackson
Jeff Nowak
Shar Parker
Branimir Roessler

25 Years

Donald Burton
V Gopal
James Sommers

Name Badges

Several members have mentioned that they would like to obtain name badges but they have found ordering them on the website a hassle. If this sounds like you, let me know and I will be happy to order them for you.

Each badge carries 2 lines, one with your name and the other signifying our "Desert Stars Section". All badges use a magnetic clasp and you have a choice of Blue, Gold or Silver.

Please send me a note with what you would like (name and color) and enclose a check for \$10.50 for each badge made out to 'MBCA-Desert Stars'. I will take care of placing the orders and will send you your badges when they arrive. Please contact me by October 1, 2016 with your request.

Mail to MBCA Desert Stars
c/o Debbie Ichiyama
6502 E Evans Dr
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Thank you,
- Debbie

Chocolate Rallye from Page 1

with a group dinner and prizes awarded to the rallye winners.

We will begin our education with a tasting of chocolate from Xocolatl. 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. We will taste several kinds of dark chocolate in their natural state so we can learn about the basic chocolates used in quality chocolate confections; and then taste the final product.

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, owned by Frederiek and Christine, a husband and wife duo. 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. Dinner 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.

We have already had a very strong response for this event and are currently only accepting participants on a "wait list" basis. If you are interested in the Havasupai Rallye and willing to be wait-listed, please call Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535. The fee of \$40 per person covers the chocolate tastings, tour, and wine pairing. To get starting time and directions you **MUST BE REGISTERED**.

*Temecula from Page 4*

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,

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Saturday & Sunday rooms, happy hours, breakfasts and Saturday & Sunday night dinners. The total cost is \$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 submitting payment (or final payment if you previously made a deposit).

See the Registration Form on Page 12.



In The Mirror: Escape the Heat in Flagstaff

August 12-13, 2016

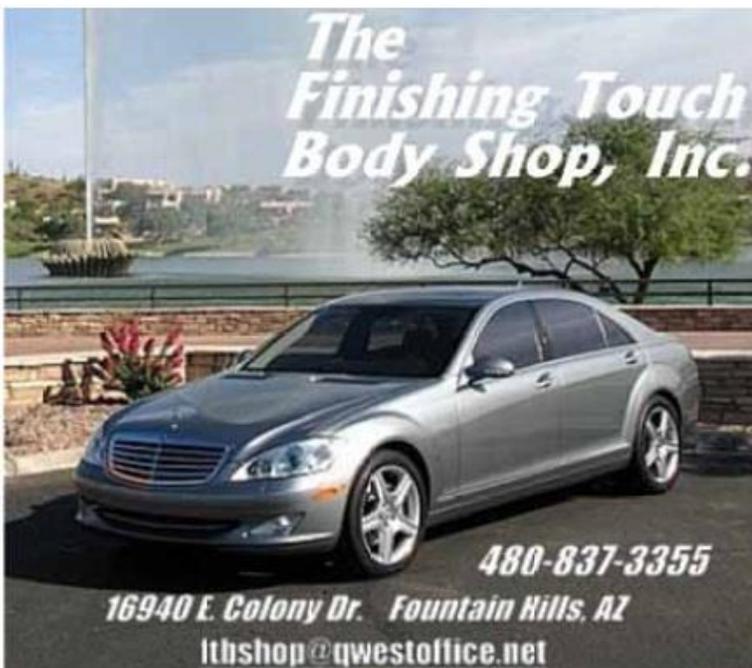
By John and Roberta Phin

There were 28 Desert Stars members wearing JACKETS in the evenings of our Escape the Heat event in August. The weather was perfect; a bit cool in the evening and blue sky (mostly) perfect during the day. Many of the group arrived on Friday evening, getting through a before-the-weekend-rain-storm to arrive at Little America ready to relax. Accommodations at Little America were exceptional; as was the newly renovated restaurant. We gathered for a fun and delicious dinner at Josephine's Friday evening, where newer members became acquainted with some long term members. Then back to those rooms – I mentioned how nice they were, right?

Saturday morning the rest of the group met up with us and we drove to the Snow Bowl Ski area. The pines were tall, cool and very green. We had a "penthouse" patio at Agassiz Lodge Restaurant, literally the highest patio above the restaurant. After a fun lunch, and enjoying the view, we headed off for some outdoor adventure. Many took the chairlift to the top of the ski run. At an elevation of 11,500 feet the views were amazing from the top and also on the ride down on the chairlift. Others roamed around the area, again enjoying being outside on an August day in Arizona. We then made our way to the Lowell Observatory where we attended a briefing of the history of the observatory and then a tour to see the grounds and the main telescope. Lowell Observatory was established in 1894, placing it among the oldest observatories in the United States, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965. The Observatory's original 61-centimeter (24-inch) Alvan Clark & Sons Telescope, was built in 1896 for \$20,000, and is still used by visitors to the observatory.

We later met up for dinner at Brix for al fresco dining (meaning on the patio). Outside; dinner; August; Arizona! Twenty-eight people, ordering from the full menu, separate checks as appropriate – now that is service. A group of folks went back to the Observatory after dinner where we found that EVERYONE else in Flagstaff also went to the observatory after dark. For those with a full tank of gas, cruising the parking lot for a parking spot paid off as we were treated to a view of Mars, or Saturn, or through the Clark & Sons telescope a look at the Moon, incredibly bright and full of craters.

On Sunday we took the scenic route down 89A to Sedona. A crystal clear day, just perfect for a Sunday drive. We enjoyed a superb lunch at Mariposa in a private room, inside but with amazing views of outside and those red rocks. Owner and chef Lisa Dahl came out to greet the group. Lisa has long ties to the MBCA club, her father having been an officer in the MBCA in years past. It was hard to leave the beautiful surroundings, but eventually we headed back into the valley and the heat. A great time, we live in an amazing state!



Above: Snow Bowl to the top
(Isn't there supposed to be snow there? -Ed.)

Enjoy more photos from the event on pages 8-9.



Left: Snow Bowl has many signs, and some rules



Below: Lunch at Snow Bowl



Above: Grouping up at the Snow Bowl entrance



Right: The "Wow!" view from the Snow Bowl Lift



Left: The LA lobby



Right: Dinner at Brix



**Holiday Party & Luncheon
December 4, 2016**

Please Register and Pay by November 26, 2016

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

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

\$45.00 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.

Desert Stars Shine at Monterey's Legends of the Autobahn

April, 2016

By Chuck Stanford

Among the myriad enthusiast events that comprise Monterey's classic car week each August is the German marques concours. Now in its seventh year, Legends of the Autobahn is an impressive display of German engineering and design from Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Audi. Even without the Porsche guys, who spun off their own show about three years ago, there were about 450 cars present, including 93 of our own Star Cars! Each of the respective clubs provide their own administration and judging to their own meticulous club standards. Each judging team determines its "Best-of-Marque" and a Best-of-Show car is chosen from the three Marque winners.

There were seven judged Mercedes-Benz classes this year comprising Vintage, Classic, and Modern era cars, and Desert Stars were triumphant in two of these contests. Phil Lutfy's lovely 1959 220 SE Cabriolet took home Class 1 honors as the best Vintage 1886-1962 Coupe, Cabriolet, or Convertible. Chuck and Ava Stanford's 1970 280 SL Coupe/Roadster was the winner in Class 3, 1963-1971 Classic Coupes, Cabriolets and Roadsters.

Photo: Phil Lutfy's lovely 1959 220 SE Cabriolet took home Class 1 honors as the best Vintage 1886-1962 Coupe, Cabriolet, or Convertible. Chuck and Ava Stanford's 1970 280 SL Coupe/Roadster was the winner in Class 3, 1963-1971 Classic Coupes, Cabriolets and Roadsters.



Best-of-Mercedes winner was a stunning 1992 500 E sedan. The Best-of-Audi winner was a well-preserved and very original 1980 Audi 5000 that has been carefully maintained by the same owner for 41 years. Best-of-BMW and Best-of-Show was a freshly-restored classic 1959 BMW 507 roadster.

This has become a great fun event and should be on everyone's bucket list as a part of the car-guy heaven that is Monterey car week.

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Temecula Wine Tasting – Oct. 7-10 \$650 (or Balance Due)

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

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

Registration including Fri, Sat & Sun rooms, happy hours, breakfasts and Sat & Sun dinner.
The cost is \$650 per couple. Contact Dick Sharpe at (480) 661-1325.

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.



Desert Stars Tech Session – Sat. Oct 22

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

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

Cost is \$25 per person. Registrations should be paid by Oct 15th, after that date or for questions
call Roberta or John Phin at 480-272-8851.

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:
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6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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



Havasupai Rallye and Chocolate Tasting Sat. September 24, 2016

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

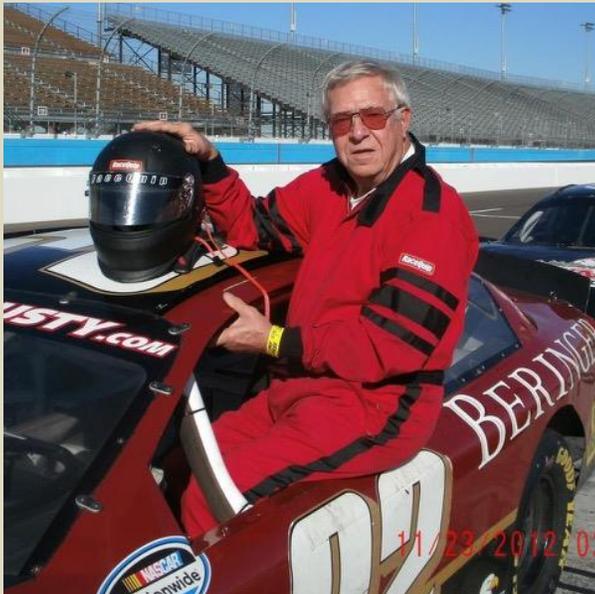
Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night Email Address: _____

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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6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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

Registration Full. Wait list only!



A long-time MBCA, Desert Stars member, James Jim Francis Friesen (77) of Phoenix, passed away on April 23, 2016 after a short battle with kidney cancer. He was passionate about automobiles through his life and a keen interest in “going fast.” He was a frequent attendee at Desert Stars social events, but will be best remembered for driving events like the 2012 StarFest where he and his car “Mr. Sooty” took well deserved awards. In addition, he also loved bowling, was a proud Arizona Diamondbacks fan. Jim was a great guy and will be missed.

Classifieds

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.

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Tino Ferrulli

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

Keep your address updated with the
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(800) 637-2360
Online at <http://mbca.org>

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

September 9-11, 2016	Friday-Sunday	Multi-Regional 4 Corners Tour
September 24, 2016	Saturday	Havasupai, One Day Rallye and Dinner
October 7-10, 2016	Friday-Monday	Temecula Wine Tasting Tour
October 22, 2016	Saturday	Tech Session: Car, Child and Pet Safety & Fund Raiser
November 6, 2016	Sunday	StarNight 2.0: Dinner at Buck and Rider
December 4, 2016	Sunday	Annual Holiday Party & Luncheon
January 22, 2017	Sunday	MB Enthusiasts Dinner

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