



Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at Noon

By Debbie Ichiyama

Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon is just around the corner. This is such a great opportunity for all members to catch up before the summer exodus. Yeah, some seek a cooler climate this time of year! And this is also a great event for new members to get the latest information on our section, get to know us, and hear about all of the activities coming up this year. As always, we would like to share any ideas for future events.

The luncheon starts at 12:00pm, noon, at The Gladly restaurant, 2201 E Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

We will be ordering off a menu prepared special for our event. The cost is \$37.00 per person, which includes family-style appetizers, the entrée of your choosing, coffee, iced tea, lemonade, desert, and includes tax and gratuity. Bar service will be available and is the responsibility of the individual.

The business portion of this event is brief and consists of announcements of events and our Board and Officer elections. The new slate of candidates is found on the bottom of page 4.

The registration form is located on page 9. For questions or to make credit card payments please call Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535. Please RSVP ASAP if not by May 2, 2017. We look forward to seeing you at lunch!

An Evening of Trivia

Tuesday June 13, 2017 8pm

By Matthew Crawford

We are headed into our warm season here in the Phoenix valley, and that means we often spend a little more time indoors than we do outside. Join the Desert Stars on a pursuit of indoor fun with a group trivia evening at Scottsdale's tried and true Irish venue, the Skeptical Chymist. Sit back at a table with a group of team members and tackle trivia questions in a relaxed atmosphere playing against other teams for the night. Topics and difficulty levels are all over the map, and I know our Desert Stars are some of the wittiest folks around – if not full of useless facts. This is your time to shine.

I am from 'back east' and I appreciate the old-school decor and cozy true-to-the-style ambiance of this Irish restaurant and pub. Skeptical Chymist sits it apart from our common modernized venues in town. They serve delicious food from a rather extensive

menu, and you will not go hungry. They also have quite a deep chalk board of craft beer on tap, as well as some real gems in bottles. Of course, the expected classics are available as well as a full bar. Food & drink, a trivia game, and hey, let's appreciate all of that cool air conditioning.

Call Matt at 305-323-7696 or StarDustMBCA@gmail.com by June 11th to save a seat.

Come hang out with us on Tuesday, June 13, 8pm-10pm.



What better way to deal with an Arizona June day, than share a cool Irish night

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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

It's that time of the year again. Summer is right around the corner. I would like to wish all safe travels for those who head to cooler climates and to repeat tips about summer maintenance for our cars.

Whether you are staying in the Valley for the summer or heading out, don't forget that our cars need a little extra attention in the heat.

Here are some important tips from idrivesafely.com.

Check Your Fluids

You can save yourself a lot of hassle in the hot-weather months by monitoring your car's fluids. Fluids that you should check include:

- Coolant
- Motor oil
- Transmission fluid
- Brake fluid
- Power-steering fluid
- Windshield wiper fluid

Have Your Car's Belts and Hoses Inspected

If you're a car expert, you can examine the belts and hoses in your vehicle yourself—but if you're like most of us, you're better off having a professional mechanic look them over. Intense heat can cause cracking, blistering, and other damage to your belts and hoses, and they may need to be replaced.

If It's Close to It's Time, Replace Your Battery

If your car has an old battery, extreme summer heat can spell

Please see *Presidents Message*, on page 3



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New Members, "Welcome!"



More Than a Car Club | We're a CommunitySM

February

Samuel Bryant
James Cagle
Tammy Cozzi
Mike Greene
John Howard
Robert Kass

March

James Green
John Hasslacher
Scott McMahan
John Palley
Everett Richardson
Michael Richey

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Newsletter Editor:
Matthew Crawford

Star Night

By Karen Manser

Atlas Bistro BYOB, 2515 N Scottsdale Road, Saturday, June 24th, 6:00 PM.

This is the perfect restaurant for foodies and is Arizona's premier BYOB restaurant! There are only a few restaurants that purchase the BYOB license that will allow you to bring that special bottle of wine. If you don't want to bring your own, AZ Wine is connected to the restaurant and you can purchase a bottle there. Corkage per bottle is \$15. (With the BYOB license, they are restricted from purchasing a regular liquor license.)

The restaurant is small and quiet with limited seating. We will have the entire restaurant if we have 24 to 38 in attendance. You will be able to visit with everyone and share wine tastes if you like.

Please check out [the website](#) to see a sample menu/pricing and enjoy photos of Executive Chef Cory Oppold's artistic and beautiful food. You may also view their [Facebook page](#). We will order off the Prix-Fixe menu and have separate checks as usual.

RSVP to Karen at 425-478-5509 or nspinaz@gmail.com. There is no need to call the restaurant as Karen is handling the arrangements.



Presidents Message from Page 2

trouble. To avoid expensive repairs, it's worth having your car's battery tested, or even replaced. Getting a new battery altogether will cost you less than it would to have a dead battery serviced if your car breaks down on the road.

Monitor Your Tire Pressure

It's a good idea to check your tire pressure routinely, if you own a tire pressure gauge, you can do this at home). Your tires actually expand when exposed to heat, and keeping them at the proper pressure will ensure that your vehicle doesn't suffer from any issues.

Be Prepared

An emergency vehicle kit is something that you should keep in your car year-round, but in both the winter and the summer, having one becomes especially important. Your kit should be stored somewhere safe and accessible, and should include the following items:

- Jumper cables
- A flashlight
- Road flares
- Water
- Nonperishable food items
- A first aid kit

Finally, if you're a DIY type of Desert Star, your MBCA membership entitles you to a discount on parts and labor at all of the Mercedes Benz dealers in the Valley, just be sure to have your current membership card on hand at the cashier! Enjoy your cars, our valley and we hope to see you at out on the roads.

Debbie

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2017 Havasupai

Saturday, September 16, 2017

By John Hutchison

Planning is underway for this year's Havasupai Road Rallye. As in past years, it will be a one-day event generally in the southern part of the Greater Phoenix/Scottsdale area.

The event will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2017 beginning promptly at 10:00am at one of our newer proud sponsor locations with a facility tour followed by lunch before everyone takes off to find clues and provide answers to teasing questions. On the way, we will stop a couple times to tour local attractions that you may not have seen before. You can expect questions on the clue sheet at each of the scheduled stops, but they will be easy. Judging of the overall Rallye results will be difficult as everyone will probably score 100%.

We are currently searching for a final resting stop where we will gather to have dinner, conversation and hand out the trophies.

Havasupai details and a registration form will be included in the mid-summer newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions on the rallye, send an email to johnhutchison@cox.net.



This is not quite how we rallye, but some folks do this type of thing on weekends. - Ed.

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Annual Meeting Slate of Officers and New Directors

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| President | Debbie Ichiyama |
| Vice President | Bob Yoder |
| Treasurer | Dick Sharp |
| Secretary | Don Burton |

Directors for class of 2020:

- Todd Bush**
Karen Manser

In The Mirror: Desert Stars Grand Prix

Held March 11, 2017

By Matthew Crawford

Please note. The winner of the DSGP is charged with writing the wrap-up for The StarDust. The process is supposed to be humbling... they said I needed that.

Some Desert Stars also happen to be race fans. It seems that whenever one attends an event, someone somewhere in the room brings up Formula 1 racing. And we like that. As the "pinnacle of motorsport", F1 racing seems to always have a hot issue on the table of discussion. There is always motion in the sport, whether it involves rule changes, or regulations to construction of the cars, the environment is very dynamic. In this day of computer simulated technology, we as consumers still

gain from advancement on the racetrack which makes its way to our road cars. Watching that cycle play out can be fascinating and rewarding. When it's off season, we read and hear about the upcoming changes with anticipation. When it comes down to it, we want to watch some racing.

In order to welcome in the 2017 F1 season which begins in March, the Desert Stars gathered at Octane Raceway in Scottsdale for our own Grand Prix racing event. Racing is an expensive way to spend a weekend, and we find these carts to be almost as fun as an actual track day, without the stress of the risks that are easy to see in the alternative.

Arriving mid-afternoon, we checked-in with Octane Raceway, and received our head socks from the front desk. Our facility provided event coordinator gathered us together for a brief overview of how our racing events would occur. We had 12 drivers attend, and each race at Octane is intended for 12 cars on the track. Our "perfect" attendance allowed us private unadulterated inter-club racing. We walked to the staging area where we donned those head socks and found well organized helmets in a range of sizes. We were talked through how the race would occur, and what the scoring system was like. Each race consisting of 14 laps, the driver with the fastest lap being the winner. At that point we were ready, and the team at Octane assigned us to our cars and we transferred from the sidelines to the track. We walked into the pits, found our chariots, sat down and strapped in. We received more announcements, more safety talk, and a quick one-on-one verification that we were buckled in and comfortable in the karts. Then we were off.



Desert Stars Grand Prix drivers take to their carts before the first round race.

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Ron Borino looking happy after putting up some great lap times.



Please see DSGP, on page 6



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*Above, left: That is the look of concentration. Above, three generations of Desert Stars hit the track.
Below, left: Don't let that fun-having smile fool you, Chuck Stanford was out for victory! Below, I have to admit, 1st Place beer tastes best!*



Position	Racename	BestTime Of Event
1	MattC	30.326
2	Ron	30.849
3	570 TE	30.919
4	SteveS	31.338
5	Scott	31.414
6	Jack	32.167
7	Mark	32.419
8	Steven Jensen	32.859
9	DTAB	32.900
10	Greg	34.235
11	Karen Manser	35.586
12	Phil	37.361

The official time sheet.

DSGP from Page 5

The first lap is computer controlled, speed limited so we could get used to the feel of the karts, and the layout of the track. This caution lap allowed us to settle in and focus on the race ahead. Once the green flag was waived, the safety lap speed controllers were removed allowing each driver to access the more-fun-than-you-would-expect electric power of these machines. If you for one minute think that your nice calm and collected Desert Star friends are softies on the race track, you have another thing coming. This group was out for blood. And some of us had targets on our backs! It's really quite amazing how sitting down driving like this can be a workout. Our hearts were pumping, and we all commented later how we had to catch our breath. The cars were quick and when pushed too hard, the limits are instant and you can find yourself facing the wrong way rather quickly!

After the first race, we were eager to talk about "that time you passed me", and "then I caught you and almost spun" or how exciting it was to find a quicker way around that one set of curves. We pitted, and checked our leader boards, patted some backs, and went back to our tables where other members who were not racing welcomed us and our appetizers arrived. Some members grabbed a quick beer, others prepped for the next race which came almost too soon after we caught our breath from the first one.

We went back out for our final race with renewed excitement and some comfort of familiarity with the track and the karts. Buckled in and ready to go we again hit the track for 14 more laps. This was the last one for us, and it seemed from my vantage that we had some of the best racing of the day that second time around. If anything, we are a passionate group!

We wrapped up that race and hit the tables again to curb our appetites and thirst. Some of the non-racers were tasked with arranging the awards presentation and with the data sheets provided from Octane Racing it was decided that the top finishers would be noted as the venue does it, by best overall lap time. Octane has a podium and (loaner) trophy for photographs. Third place was Chuck Stanford with a best lap of 30.919 seconds, second place went to Ron Borino with a 30.849 (a tight 0.070 gap!), and first place, by yours, truly, with a 30.326 lap.

Everyone there had a great time. It was fun and challenging. Although we have raced with Octane in the past, the last time during a Havasupai Rallye event, I do not think any of us were as expectant of the physical demand racing took on us. That make it fun, but we all had to hit the showers when we got home. Thank you all for a fun afternoon, and I look forward to not writing this next year!



AutoX

Saturday, October 21, 2017

By Matthew Crawford

It's been a little while since The Desert Stars have taken to the track and danced with the cones. We have an open invitation with the Porsche Club of America (PCA) to join in the AZ PCA autocross at Arizona Motorsports Park Skidpad. Location address is 15402 W. Camelback Rd, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340.

There will be instructors available for first timers. A limited number of



Above: All makes welcome, but know there are some big guns in attendance.

Below: Rick from PCA instructs drivers on directional cones.



loaner helmets are available, if you have one bring it. Non-Porsches, non-Mercedes are welcome to join in. Mark Ichiyama and I went out and shared a day with the PCA to see if this was something we would be interested in, I ran our SLK and had a great time. They run the event very well. All drivers must volunteer in some capacity. That is what keeps these going. I worked a corner straightening any cones that may have been moved. Contact me with any questions at StarDustMBCA@gmail.com.

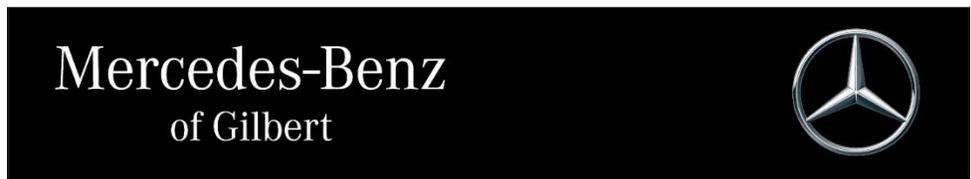
I would greatly appreciate knowing who plans on coming, but all registration for the event is handled via motorsport.reg (if you did any track events at StarFest 2012, you have an account already). If we have a few people we will pull out the MBCA tent and provide some shade. There should be a hotdog food truck there, but bring a cooler, snacks, sunscreen and a folding chair if you wish. The only structures in the area are restrooms.

The price is \$60 for the event if prepaid, otherwise \$70 if paid on site. Arrive when the gates open at 7 am. First car out at 9 am. Tech forms will be available on site. (Sorry but no go-karts, Polaris type, formula or other exoskeleton vehicles permitted). Note: AMP has a strict sound limit and your vehicle must pass sound tech held immediately before the event (around 8:30) or have a valid AMP sound sticker and no changes to the car impacting sound have been made since.

Register at www.motorsportreg.com by October 20, 2017 5:59 PM MST



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Sponsor Spotlight By Ken Borowitz

In this edition of "Sponsor Spotlight", we take a "home inspection" with Joseph Thompson of Berkshire-Hathaway HomeServices Arizona Properties, one of MBCA Desert Stars' non-automotive advertisers. Joseph's office is located just north of the valley at 3434 W. Anthem Way, Suite #112, Anthem, AZ 85086.

Berkshire-Hathaway HomeServices is the real estate division of the Warren Buffett conglomerate. Joseph is an Associate Broker and a seasoned veteran amongst his peers in Anthem and across the overall Phoenix metro valley. He has been working in the industry for over thirty years in varied roles. Joseph's wife, Fran, aids him in the back-office operations side of the business, and humbly refers to herself as the "silent assistant" and Joseph's "spell-checker." They have been married for forty-six wonderful years!

Q: Joseph, tell us how you got started in the real estate industry.

A: It all started as a part-time job in college. I was a leasing agent at a rental / apartment complex. I moved on to become a manager within that same leasing company, and obtained my real estate license, then on to become a broker.

Q: What are some of your other earlier experiences and roles?

A: After becoming a broker, I worked in new home sales for Hallcraft Homes, That's when my interest and involvement in large-scale, residential home sales market really began to emerge. Eventually, I began working at Beazer Homes, where I was initially the sales manager, and later the marketing director, and finally the president of the company. I was responsible for having roughly 14,500 homes built under my tenure, casting me as a major market subject matter expert in the Phoenix area.

Q: You were previously advertising with us in the StarDust newsletter as an associate broker for Coldwell Banker / Daisy Mountain. Why the transition, and when did it occur?

A: Basically, Daisy Mountain was absorbed into Berkshire-Hathaway HomeServices as part of a national expansion by Berkshire-Hathaway HomeServices. The majority of the transition for us took place earlier this year in January. Internally, we are very excited about the journey we are on, and even more excited about the impact this will have with our clients.

Q: So after all that early and continued success, what is your current industry focus, and what sets you apart from other agents and brokers?

A: As before with Coldwell Banker, and now continuing with Berkshire-Hathaway HomeServices, I mainly focus on excellent customer service in residential home sales. I'm concentrated in Scottsdale, Anthem, Sun City, and northeastern Phoenix. We are uniquely positioned to assist clients entering the market (either as a buyer or a seller) because of the years of experience in architectural design, energy efficiency, and materials. If selling, we can provide expert guidance on pricing, marketing, and negotiating the final sale.

Q: Fran, tell us how you met Joseph, and how the two of you spend your time away from the office and clients?

A: When I was in college, I worked for an attorney in downtown Phoenix. The only place that the girls in the office and I could go at lunchtime on a budget was at a nearby Jack-in-the-Box. Joseph was working the counter there, and the rest is history. We both are car enthusiasts, especially classic cars, so we spend time going to car shows. We also are involved in volunteer ministry, and love to travel. Joseph serves on the Board of Overseers for the Phoenix Symphony, helping to promote and market the symphony and its events. But we especially enjoy what we call "Marvelous Mondays," when some of our grandchildren spend each Monday with us. It's a special time for all of us!

Q: Being that you both love cars, any special Mercedes that you have owned that stands out?

A: Fran owned a '72 280 SE 4.5 as her daily driver. It was a really nice car. Now we drive an E-class convertible, and enjoy it as well.



Fran and Joseph Thompson



Joseph and Fran at Chateau Montelena Winery in Napa Valley, with daughter Janelle and son-in-law Brandon.

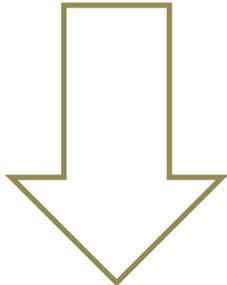
Q: Joseph and Fran, anything else you want the Desert Stars members to know about you and your services with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices AZ Properties?

A: As we mentioned before, we are very excited about the change, and encourage anyone thinking about selling or purchasing a home to look us up on the internet, browse current listings, and give us a call. We would be more than happy to help, especially MBCA members.

Joseph can be reached at (602) 206-0692. You can also learn more about Joseph, his business, and current listing of available properties he represents by connecting to his internet homepage josephthompson.bhhsaz.com, or via jthompson241@cox.net.

Thanks to Joseph and Fran Thompson for their continued support of MBCA and Desert Stars!

Yes, that looks
delicious.
So, register for this:



2017 Annual Business Meeting May 7, 2017

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____
Address: _____
City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____
Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night _____
Email Address: _____

\$37 Per person. Contact Debbie for availability or questions at (480) 268-9535.

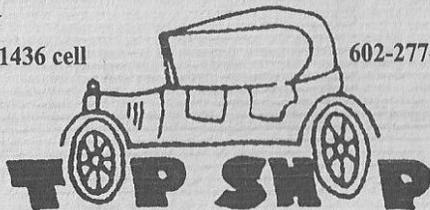
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**Mercedes Benz Club of America
Southwest Regional Event
June 2 - 4, 2017**

Hosted by the Orange County Section

Join us in Orange County, CA for a fun-filled weekend. Bring your Mercedes and enjoy the wonderful area of Orange County.

Host Hotel: Embassy Suites Hotel Santa Ana,
1325 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Amenities included are:

- Gated parking with 24-hour attendant
- In-room internet
- Complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast buffet
- Complimentary managers reception Friday & Saturday

Highlights include:

- Welcome reception Friday evening Co hosted by OC Section
- Rally after Saturday breakfast
- Lunch break after Rally
- Awards Banquet at a local restaurant
- Awards for Rally
- Raffle drawing with prizes



This weekend also has free time to visit the following nearby attractions:

- Shopping at Fashion Island and South Coast Plaza
- Visit to Rogers Garden
- Crevier Classic Cars
- Sherman Library and Gardens
- Lyon Air Museum
- Newport Beach

To make your reservation with Embassy Suites
Call 714.241.3800, select 1 for reservations and tell the receptionist you want to reserve a room under the MBZ

We have a limited number of rooms reserved at a special rate of \$117 per night (approximately \$140 with tax and parking) but **you must make your reservation directly with the Embassy Suites before May 1, 2017.** Reservations made after this date are subject to room availability and prevailing room rates. When you make your room reservation, or if you plan to attend without staying at the Embassy Suites, fill out the entry form below. Sent the completed form along with a check for \$97 per person or \$194 per couple to cover trophies, lunch, Saturday banquet etc.

For any questions contact Lynn Hern at lynn.hern@sbcglobal.net or 714-998-1684

Orange County Regional Event June 2-4, 2017

Name(s)registering _____ No. _____ at \$97 each

Address _____

Phone No. _____ Day/night E-mail _____

Awards Dinner Entree Choice & No. Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____

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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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THE STARDUST

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

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Online at <http://mbca.org>



MAY - JUNE 2017

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

May 7, 2017	Sunday	Annual Meeting
June 2-4, 2017	Weekend	SW Regional Event
June 13, 2017	Tuesday	Trivia Night
June 24, 2017	Saturday	Star Night at Atlas
July, TBD, 2017	TBD	Star Night at TBD
September 16, 2017	Saturday	Havasupai Rallye
October 21, 2017	Saturday	AutoX
November 11, 2017	Saturday	Tech Session
December 3, 2017	Sunday	Holiday Party

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