



Wine Tasting

Saturday, July 22, 2017 at 2:00PM

By Todd Bush

Come join your Desert Stars for a relaxing afternoon of wine tasting at Central Wine in Phoenix. The staff will be eager to pour us wines ranging from strictly Arizona grown, Napa, California and Oregon's Willamette Valley, among others.

There is a menu available for light items such as meat and cheese trays, Veggie boards and desert trays, all of which, are delicious.

This is a nice little wine bar that feels like a tasting room without the cost of adding miles to our beloved cars in the middle of the summer.



Central Wine is located on N. Central Avenue, just north of E. Indian School Road, in Phoenix. It is nestled between the restaurants *Clever Koi* and *George and Dragon Pub*.

Please contact Todd at 760-954-3026 or glamrox92345@yahoo.com ASAP if you are interested in attending as he needs a tentative count for planning purposes. There is no need to call Central Wine as Todd is handling the arrangements.

Central Wine, 4236 N. Central Ave. Ste. 101, Phoenix, AZ



Havasupai Rallye 2017

Saturday, September 16, 2017 10:00AM

By John Hutchison

This year's Havasupai Rallye will be a one-day event beginning promptly at 10:00am on Saturday, September 16, 2017. We will start the event at one of our newest advertiser's, Mercedes-Benz of Gilbert (3455 S Gilbert Road, Gilbert, Arizona, 85295 phone 480-407-5800) with a facility tour followed by a light lunch in their break room.

The first section of the Rallye will take place during and immediately after the tour, consisting primarily of "Mercedes-Benz-related" that can be answered based on things that you learned during the tour as well as facts that you can easily obtain around the showroom.

Please see *Rallye*, on page 3



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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

I hope everyone is having a great summer and coping with the heat. For all of those who head out of the Valley I hope you are enjoying cooler temperatures and are missing the heat even a little.



During the annual meeting this year, we asked the attendees to complete a survey form asking questions ranging from what members like most about being a member of the Desert Stars to what they would improve, if anything, to add to their membership experience. The overwhelming response regarding what they like most is the camaraderie, meeting new members and discovering new places.

Regarding the question relating to improvement was more driving events and/or overnight trips. We are currently working on those suggestions. That being said we are asking you, our members, to suggest places you might want to drive to, places to explore and if anyone would like to help in planning an event that would be awesome.

If you have any suggestions or want to help, please reach out to Karen Manser or myself.

Thank you, please stay safe, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Debbie

July-August 2017 Volume 53 Number 4

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New Members, "Welcome!"



More Than a Car Club | We're a CommunitySM

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R G Hunt
Dean Lewellen
Xiao Lu

Deborah Roth
Franklin Rudolph
Robert Turchick
Sharon Wechsler
Henry Williams

May

Andy Hutchison
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Trivia Pursuits

Tuesday August 22, 2017 7:30PM

By Matthew Crawford

We had a fun evening in June at the weekly trivia night held by The Skeptical Chymist Irish Pub. So much so that we are planning to attend another one in August. Trivia begins promptly at 8:00PM. It makes sense to get there a little early to find us (I'll wear a Mercedes-Benz hat) and place a food or drink order and get settled in.

Our last trivia night had the Desert Starts split into 3 teams from 4 to 6 people. We get to make up creative team names, as an example, one of our teams was branded "A Case of the Benz". These names are read aloud for the occasional rankings announcements from the host which helps all enjoy a sense of competition among the pub.

As the trivia host read questions over the PA, each team completed their answer sheets, while enjoying the delicious fish and chips, a burger, or perhaps minced lamb shepherd's pie. Conversation is never short, and the trivia moves at a good pace.

Call or text Matt at 305-323-7696, or email at StarDustMBCA@gmail.com by August 20 to save a seat. 🍷

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Mercedes-Benz

AutoX (Auto Cross)

Saturday, October 21, 2017

By Matthew Crawford







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Join the Desert Stars and go dancing 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 to ride “shotgun” for first timers. A limited number of loaner helmets are available, if you have one bring it. Non-Porsches, non-Mercedes are welcome to join in. If you have a car to drive, bring it – just know there are noise restrictions. All drivers must volunteer in some capacity the day of the run. Some may handle time sheets, others can work a corner straightening any cones that may be knocked over. 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. Contact Matt with any questions at StarDustMBCA@gmail.com.

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



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Mercedes-Benz
of Gilbert



Rallye from Page 1

After lunch, the second section of the Rallye will take participants

northbound to learn more about Valley of the Sun's southern suburbs of Gilbert, Chandler, Mesa, and Tempe, ending up at a restaurant in the Indian School-Camelback Corridor. Questions in this section of the Rallye will be based on your observation of the city as you travel on the appointed route, at a local historical museum or of the unique sights that you may see along the way. There may also be a picture or two to identify, and a requirement to track your total mileage. Don't worry, it will be as easy as riding a bike!!

Please register for this event now (deadline Saturday, September 9, 2017). The fee is \$42 per person if paid by Saturday, August 26, OR \$45 per person if paid after that date. For information about the event, contact John Hutchison at johnhutchison@cox.net or call 480-473-4887. See sign-up form on page 9 of this newsletter.

Tech Session: Tools of the Trade *Zen and the Art of Mercedes-Benz Repair*

November 11, 2017 9:00AM

By Bud Cloninger

Every professional requires a host of tools to make them the best at what they do. The seamstress needs to have the finest scissors, the cabinetmaker will need most accurate cutting tools and the Mercedes technician an endless array of diagnostic and hand tools. Unlike most professions we first need to disassemble our product in a broken state, before reassembling it in working order.

In the automotive world, the nuts bolts and fasteners that hold our cars together seem to be changing almost daily. This requires the technician to constantly retool to keep up with the advancements of the automotive world. With modern assembly

techniques robots build most of our engines, and for the most part manufacturers it seems are more concerned with assembly and not disassembly for repairs. Single use bolts, special sealants in place of gaskets and coolant hoses that snap into place without the use of hose clamps. Even the solvent tanks and parts washers of the past have faded away and we now use microbes to eat the grease and oil from our engine parts. No longer is it just nuts and bolts and a little common sense.

We will explore the evolution of Mercedes-Benz disassembly and repair and the tools needed to do the job correctly. Guest speakers will talk to us on the advancement of automotive products and tooling. Please join us Saturday November 11th at 9:00 am. The address is 2730 E McDowell Rd. Cost for this event is \$15.00 to cover the cost of refreshments and a catered lunch.

Please fill out the registration form or for credit card payments call Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535. Do not forget to RSVP with me for this event (page 9) to make sure you have a seat at the workbench! Any questions about the event, call Bud Cloninger 602-326-6210.



It makes sense. Almost.

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In the Mirror: 2017 M-B.E.A.T. Mercedes-Benz European Auto Tour

Held April 22 & 23, 2017

By John Hutchison, Bob Yoder, and Dick Sharp



In prior years, the route of the B.E.A.T was almost always from Interstate 17/Dunlap to Wickenburg, to highway 89 to Prescott, lunch in Prescott, and then Jerome, Cottonwood, Sedona and on to Flagstaff to the Little America Hotel. We decided to spice the trip up this year with a different route, lunch at a different place, and a different hotel in Flagstaff (primarily because Little America not available because it was under a major renovation with half of the rooms being refurbished).

For Desert Stars second annual Tour, we assembled at Denny's Restaurant in the shopping center at the corner of Carefree Highway and Interstate 17. After breakfast at Denny's, and a short driver's meeting to lay out the rules (obey the speed limit and watch closely for animals, bikers, hikers and county mounties), we were off!

Our 12 cars, mostly Mercedes, were tri-book ended with, would you believe, a screaming yellow Smart car, an AC 289 Cobra and a BMW Z8 Alpina roadster (all legal according to B.E.A.T. rules that each entry requires "European" content). Leaving the I-17 and Carefree Highway assembly point, our route was on Highway 74/60 to Wickenburg for a Pit stop before heading north on Highway 93. To our amazement, the "Yellow Zonker" passed everyone at a "not too Smart" speed and took the early lead.

We then made a right turn onto Highway 97 toward Bagdad, where the Smart was passed by most everyone on the twisty roads and where the major hazard turned out to be cows near the road (free range!!). We then took a right onto Highway 96 through the "major population centers" of

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Hillside, Yava and Kirkland, and finally stopping at the Skull Valley Station for our second Pit stop, drinks, snacks and an impromptu B.E.A.T. car show for other weekend travelers on the same route. We found out that the town was also having its own car show of only pre-1970 cars. Unfortunately, we couldn't attend because of our need to be in Jerome no later than 11:30am.

The next fun drive along Iron Springs Road took us around Prescott to more twisty roads over Mingus Mountain and into Jerome for lunch at the Asylum. **WOW!! What a white-knuckle ride in selected cars!!**

After lunch for 26 attendees and pictures of the group on the Asylum steps, we enjoyed a tour of the Jerome State Historic Park which included a video presentation of the history of Jerome. The mansion had a central

Please see *M-BEAT*, on page 7

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M-BEAT from Page 6

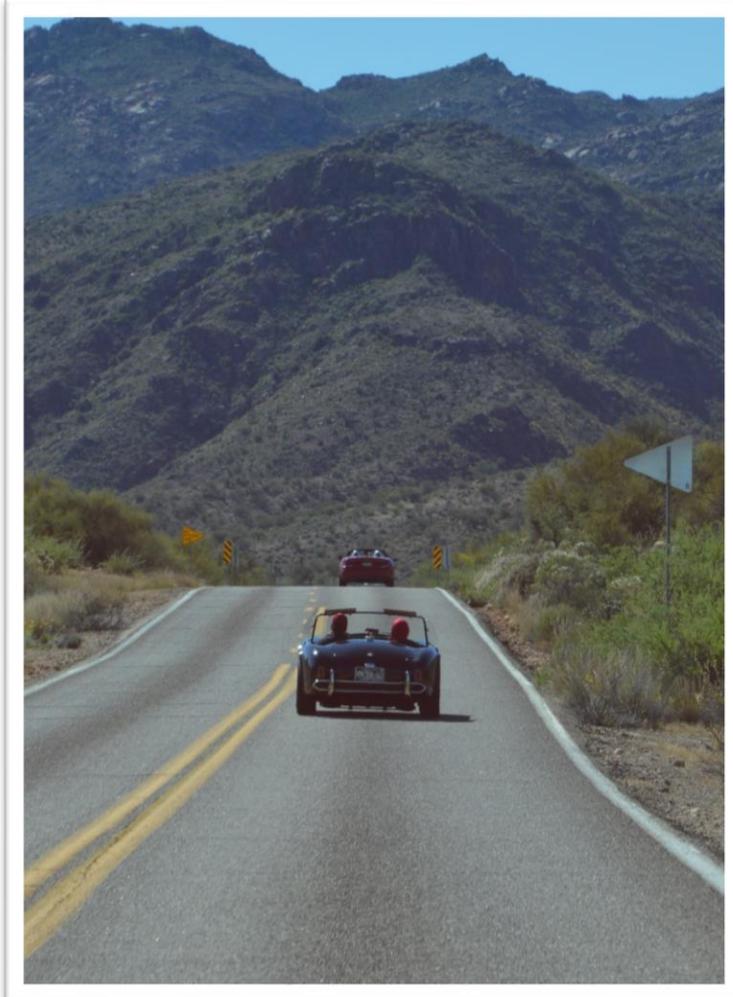
vacuum system and many other enhancements that were not part of most early 1900's homes.

On the road again after the interesting visit to the Douglas Mansion, we headed to Clarkdale, past the great Copper Museum now located in the old High School, Old Town Cottonwood, crowded Sedona and bumpy Oak Creek Canyon (the road is somewhat under construction; you need to watch for potholes!!), we ended at the new Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Flagstaff for an entertaining and delicious dinner for 21 people in the Sakura Japanese hibachi restaurant in the Hotel after having cocktails on "speedster" Yoder's tab. Ha!

After a restful night and breakfast at the Hotel, we all headed home via varied routes on Sunday, ours being through Lake St. Mary, Strawberry, Pine and Payson. Great Event!! Plan on attending next year; tentative dates are Saturday and Sunday, April 21/22, 2018.



"We had a great time!"



Sponsor Spotlight By Ken Borowitz

In this edition of "Sponsor Spotlight", we'll take a look at the blueprints over at Oei Design, located in Scottsdale, and one of Desert Stars Section non-automotive advertisers. Founded in 1996 by husband and wife team Rizal Oei and Kim Kunasek, Oei Design is an award-winning architectural design firm, providing creative design and implementation services for a variety of projects across all industries.

Q: Kim and Rizal, tell us a little about Oei Design, and the services you offer?

A: [Kim] We are architectural designers creating built environments for a broad spectrum of clients. Our projects have included retail, restaurant, and residential design. Oei Design is known for specialty and destination architecture like Build-A-Bear Workshop and retail at Disney and Universal Studios. We come in at the "germ" of the idea. This includes the initial discovery and understanding of the client's needs and goals for their project, and bring their vision into reality. Our services include everything from concept to keys. **[Rizal]** We are problem solvers. As Kim stated, we build the relationship with the client to establish scope of their project and what our role will be for that project, and then work along the project continuum to meet their expectations. Our skills, knowledge, and past project experience become key assets and drivers for the project itself.

Q: Do you have typical client and project profile?

A: [Rizal] We work with a wide-range of clients in various industries across the globe, including restaurants, specialty retail, start-up companies, municipalities (airport), and exhibits/museums. We also have the privilege of working with individual homeowners, and enjoy the collaborative and more personal design process. **[Kim]** No two projects end up being the same, but they all follow a similar process and methodology, thereby, providing consistency, quality, and client satisfaction throughout the project.

Q: Can you tell us about some of your favorite projects, and a few of the more recognizable clients?

A: [Kim] Every project we work on is a favorite, especially, when the end result is aesthetically pleasing, functions well, and people respond positively to the space and environment we've helped create. So, it would be hard to pick one over another. We have several completed examples on our website ([ed.] Oei-design.com). In Food and Beverage, the MBCA members would recognize Roy's Pacific Rim, Arby's, Auntie Anne's, Starbucks, etc. In the Entertainment industry, retail stores at Disney and Universal Studios'. And in Specialty Retail, Build-A-Bear and Ridemakerz. **[Rizal]** In Automotive, we've worked with Toyota and their Scion division, and currently working on a sponsorship project with Bondurant Racing here in Phoenix.

Q: What was the catalyst that allowed each of you to enter into this line of work professionally?

A: [Rizal] We have very different childhood backgrounds, but our studies at University of Arizona began the path that ultimately converged our talent, skills, and our life. After my undergrad studies at UoA, I had the opportunity to work in NYC under renowned Argentinean architect Emilio Ambasz on projects all over the world. It was when Ambasz designed the Phoenix Museum of History that I moved to Phoenix. Working under Emilio was a very productive and influential experience for me professionally, and subsequently, allowed me to take on several design directorships before establishing Oei Design. **[Kim]** My first exposure to architectural design was living in a passive solar home my parents built 40 years ago in Mesa (near Uesry Pass and McDowell) before solar power was a major consideration in home construction in the valley. I attended Arizona State University my first year of undergrad, and at age 19, had an opportunity to work under an architect in Ireland. The influence of that experience, and others, had a profound redirection of my undergrad studies, guiding me down a architecture history path and subsequent Master's degree in the same.

Q: Tell us about your family, and what you like to do when you are not working a Oei Design project?

A: [Kim] We have three children. Jean-Paul is the eldest, and at 25 he is a young serial entrepreneur. Jean-Paul approaches business with the same discipline he uses when prepping for the Iron Man. His metal fabrication company, AtMostFear.com, produces everything from designer furniture to large scale commercial projects. Oei Design has enjoyed collaborating with AtMostFear. Our daughter, Isabella, currently lives in Europe on a "gap year". Isabella is also very creative and will be helping with the furniture line we are producing for Anderson Teak. Isabella has traveled with Rizal to visit the factories in Indonesia. While living in Paris she has produce online tutorials for a craft button manufacturer and helped with packaging for a chocolatier. And our youngest, Andrew, is a junior at Veritas Prep. Academics, sports, friends, and family fill his life. **[Rizal]** In our downtime, we like to travel together. Kim tends to be the adventurer, and likes to go on hikes, walks, and visit museums and new places. I tend to be attracted to the culture - food, coffee, music, and galleries. Kim also likes to garden, and participated for the sixth time in the Arcadia Edible Garden Tour this past May. We also like to host friends and visitors from other areas, some of which have been clients, or past connections from business associations and the like.



Rizal and Kim (far left and far right), with the Indonesian Ambassador and the General Councilman, whom they hosted last fall. Also pictured are Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton (center left) and County Supervisor Andy Kunasek (center right, Kim's brother).



(Left to Right) Jean-Paul, Isabella, and Andrew

Q: You have referenced your 3Cs - Create - Collaborate - Community, tell us a little about the "Community"?

A: [Rizal] As we move thru a project, it's all about the client and their needs. Our clients are spread out throughout the globe, so we like to reconnect locally, and give back in the community. We do this in a variety of ways, but mostly as contributions of architectural and civic services to a variety of non-profits and educational institutions. For instance, Kim has been a guest lecturer at ASU, and involved with local boards like Garfield Organization and the Challenge Youth Fund. I worked with ASU as well, collaborating with them on interior designs at the Herberger Institute. I've also worked with the Arizona Make-A-Wish Foundation on a remodel project.

Q: If you could pick one landmark in the valley or surrounding area as a favorite, what would it be?

A: [Kim] My favorite would be Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, mainly for its architectural significance to modern design and trends it inspired. **[Rizal]** Mine would be Hoover Dam because of its sheer presence of structure and its tremendous engineering accomplishments.

Please see *Oei*, on page 10

Havasupai Rally 2017 September 16, 2017

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

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Email Address: _____



\$42 per person if paid by Saturday, Aug. 26 or \$45 per person if paid after that date. For information, contact John Hutchison at johnhutchison@cox.net or call 480-473-4887

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

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6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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Tech Session: Tools of the Trade November 11, 2017

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

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Email Address: _____



Cost for this event is \$15.00 to cover the cost of refreshments and a catered lunch.

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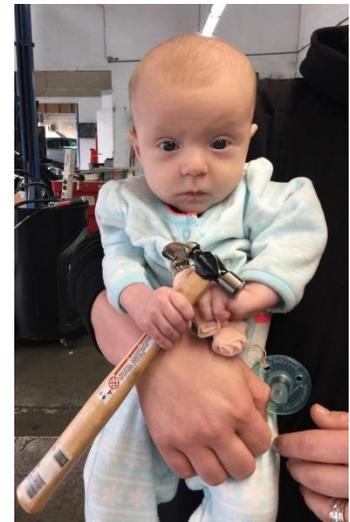


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In the Mirror: Annual Meeting

Held May 7, 2017

By Debbie Ichiyama

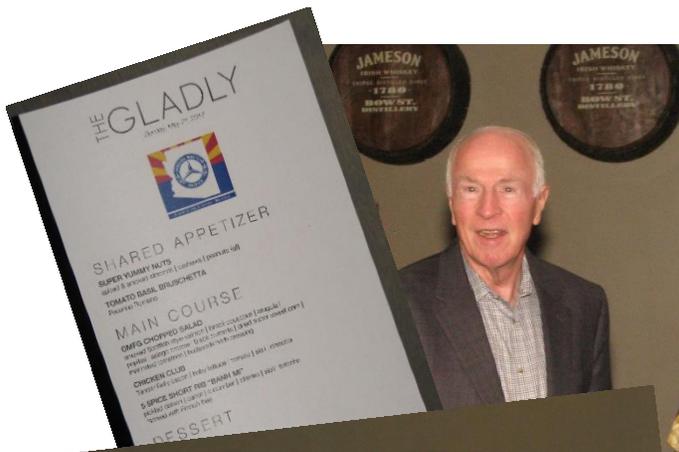
We had another great turnout for our annual meeting luncheon at The Gladly. The day was perfect, the venue was ideal, the food was delicious and it was a great opportunity to catch up with members and get to welcome some new members who attended the event.

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 Director Karen Manser provided us with a preview of upcoming events this summer and fall.

A plaque was presented to the retiring Director Ken Borowitz.

The election for Officers and new Directors was then held afterwards. The Officers are President Debbie Ichiyama, Vice President Bob Yoder, club Treasurer Dick Sharp, and Secretary Don Burton. The new Directors are Todd Bush and Karen Manser.



Oei from Page 8

Q: You are MBCA members and Mercedes owners. What do you like most about the brand?

A: [Kim] My parents owned Mercedes, and would travel to Europe and pick them up, so I've grown up around them. What I appreciate most is the safety, and Rizal and I have first-hand experience with that. We purchased a '99 C300 Diesel. Rizal and two of our kids were in an accident on the 202, New Year's Day that spun the car into oncoming traffic (semis, etc.). Luckily, no one was hurt. Obviously, the car was totaled, and appreciated the fact that it saved our family. So we purchased another just liked it within three weeks with some help from some of our club members.

Q: Anything else you would like Desert Stars members to know about you or Oei Design?

A: [Rizal] We welcome the opportunity to help members with any architectural projects they may be thinking about, no matter how big or small. Whether a home remodel or expansion, building a new garage for their car collection, an airplane hangar or museum, we would be honored to help with the design, planning, and implementation.

Rizal and Kim can be contacted directly at (488) 577-4036, or via email kim@oei-design.com. You can also learn more about Oei Design on their website oei-design.com. Thanks to Rizal and Kim for their continued support of MBCA and Desert Stars!

Classifieds



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This is a staggered set of four factory AMG wheels that came off a 2008 S550. Also have lug bolts. Good condition with slight curb scraping. \$1,200.00 OBO Contact Bud Cloninger at 602-326-6210

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

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JULY-AUGUST 2017

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

July, 22, 2017	Saturday	Wine Tasting
August 22, 2017	Tuesday	Trivia Pursuits
September 16, 2017	Saturday	Havasupai Rallye
October xx, 2017	TBD	TBD – A Drive to Lunch
October 21, 2017	Saturday	AutoX
November 11, 2017	Saturday	Tech Session: Tools of the Trade
December 3, 2017	Sunday	Holiday Party

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