



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.



Tools in the Gottlieb Daimler Memorial garden house. Photo by the author.

Holiday Party & Anniversary Recognition

Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 12:00PM

By Debbie Ichiyama

Make no jokes about it, the Holidays are here. Our Annual Holiday Party and Member Anniversary recognition celebration is on December 3. It is time to spread some cheer and spend time with friends and fellow members and enjoys the spirit of the holidays.

Mr. Zoran Klisara has welcomed us back to Tommy V's Urban Kitchen and Bar. As is customary, he is opening up exclusively for us. We will have the restaurant and parking lot to ourselves.

Holiday shopping awaits in Old Town Scottsdale for you to pick up gifts for friends and family. Anniversary celebrants (page 5) must attend to receive your recognition pins. We want to see you!

Don't forget an un-wrapped gift for our Toys for Tots drive. Please see the registration form on page 9. Make this holiday season a special one by joining your Desert Stars friends.



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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

As the year draws to an end I would like to take time to thank everyone for all the work they do to make the Desert Stars the best section in the national club. We have an awesome group of people who spend the time needed; working hard to develop our activities helps ensure the success of our Desert Stars.

There are some remarkable events coming up in the next few months. Coming up soon is a Tech Session,

hosted by our resident professional, and Regional Director, Bud Cloninger. Then of course the always well attended Annual Holiday Party & Membership Recognition luncheon brings in the holidays. Our 'nationally acclaimed' MB Enthusiasts dinner is around the corner in January, centering as always around Auction Week here in the valley. February holds the always-fun, and delightfully challenging Poker Run, followed by a nice long weekend drive to Las Vegas, Nevada. Please see the articles in the Newsletter for details.

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather and taking advantage of being able to spend more time outdoors.

A special welcome is offered to all the new members who joined our family of Club Members this past year. It has been great to see and meet so many new folks out at the events.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday Season! Stay safe.



Debbie

November-December 2017 Volume 53 Number 6

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New Members, "Welcome!"



More Than a Car Club | We're a CommunitySM

September

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Nancy Kuhn

Claudia Ladas

Donald Ramsey

Kelsie Tsang

John Zweber

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Mercedes-Benz Enthusiasts Dinner

Saturday, January 20, 2017 beginning at 5:30PM

By Mark Ichiyama

As Arizona becomes the center of the automobile universe in January, we are again celebrating the classic car auction week with the Mercedes-Benz Enthusiast Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Scottsdale.

This year's event will be on Saturday evening, January 20th, 2017 at 16405 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ. Activities start at 5:30 P.M. with the viewing and judging of the "People's Choice" contest featuring MBCA members personal cars in our reserved parking area. Following the voting, join us on Maggiano's patio to mingle around some new Mercedes-Benz

vehicles on display courtesy of Schumacher European. The party then moves inside to the private dining room for a family style dinner service of some of Maggiano's classic Italian dishes. We guarantee no one will leave wanting. Last, but not least, our after dinner program will feature industry experts to give their perspectives on the past week's auctions and the current state of the classic car market. Bring your questions and join the discussion. See registration form on page 9.

While the dinner caps off the week of auctions, we are planning guided tours to several of the auctions during the week. These tours offer "up close and personal" viewing of some of the exemplary cars being offered. Tour group sizes are limited and we will



Some of the People Choice Award contestants from 2016



provide updates on how to register as the information becomes available.

MBCA members from other regions, who are planning to be in town for the auctions, or just visiting at this beautiful time of year, are encouraged to participate in the events we have planned during the week and on Saturday evening. Please make hotel reservations soon, as the auctions draw an international crowd and accommodations are best reserved early.

Poker Run

February 24, 2018

By Harman and Susan Cadis

Get ready for some fun Poker Action!

Don't worry you don't need to bet or bluff your way to the winners circle. Just enjoy the day driving to interesting places and eating goodies along the way with your friends in Desert Stars.

We have a great event planned – Interesting cars to see and great locations to explore. This year we will have some added fun for you and of course ending with a wonderful dinner and prizes for the winners and losers.

This is a great event and good time! If not, plan on attending! You will not want to miss the 2018 Poker Run...Put in on your calendar NOW!

For more information contact Harman or Susan at Harman@FocusHOA.com, or call us at 480-242-8087.

Local Car Culture

The Annual '**Concours in the Hills**' in Fountain Hills is scheduled for February 10, 2018 from 10am until 3pm.

Last year over 640 cars were displayed and the organizers are expanding the display areas, adding food truck and washrooms for 2018. The Desert Stars calendar is unfortunately not allowing us to organize a group event for this; however individual vehicles entries are available with a minimum \$60 donation to the Phoenix Children's Hospital. If you schedule allows and you have a great car you wish to share, or if you simple wish to attend as a spectator, this is a great local event with a wonderful cause.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Volny at 480-773-9070 or by email at concoursinthehills@cox.net.

In the Mirror: 2017 Havasupai Rallye

Held September 16, 2017

By John & Marianne Hutchison

September 16, 2017 was an excellent day for a Rallye; sunny with a bit of breeze and moderate temperatures for us in the Valley of the Sun. Seventeen hardy souls with eight premium Mercedes-Benz automobiles were on deck for an afternoon exploring areas of the Greater Phoenix area they probably had not traversed before.

We started out with a tour hosted by Mike Tegge, GM of the new Mercedes-Benz of Gilbert. Mike showed us nearly all of their dealership: the 67,000 square feet of display space, 29 service bays including special Sprinter ones, the car wash, and a detail bay that can accommodate about a dozen cars at a time. While in the service bays, members got a chance to talk with one of the lead technicians about special tools and how they were currently being used to provide maintenance and repair of a GLA250, and some of the complexities that are encountered when repairing a transmission on a front-wheel drive car. The car-guys in the tour were pressing the technician for hints while viewing the underside of the vehicle.

After the tour, the dealership provided lunch for the group, and then the Havasupai Rallye began with a quick quiz on the tour presentation, the dealership, and certain vehicles in current inventory. On completion of the initial quiz, which was included in the participant's overall score, the Rallye teams zeroed out their trip odometers (except those collector-car models without that capability), and part 2 of the Rallye



began as the cars turned Northbound on Gilbert Road to collect answers to the myriad of clues devised by this year's Rallye Masters! The route took the participants through Farmhouse Village, to the Gilbert Historical Museum on Elliott Road, through Gilbert's historical downtown, and into Mesa. We passed nearby the A's Spring Training headquarters, past a surprising Statue of Liberty, and then near Sloan Park which is Spring Training Headquarters for the Chicago Cubs. Then we headed to a side adventure on the ASU campus.

The first campus stop gave us a view of what kinds of tasks the ASU School of Earth and Space Exploration were performing in support of NASA. A docent gave a speech as we viewed a model of the Opportunity Rover and the Control Center and a couple of interactive movies on the moon, and a virtual tour of the Solar System that demonstrated the almost INSIGNIFICANCE of our Solar System within the enormity of space which goes out BILLIONS of light years from our Sun!

Please see *Rallye* on page 6

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of Gilbert



Holiday Party Anniversary Celebrants

Anniversary celebrants must attend the Holiday Party to receive the MBCA 5-year incremented recognition pins. Please see page 1 for details.

45 Years
Edward Kasmar

40 Years
Arlene Fornoff

35 Years
Peter Gannon
Robert Phillips

30 Years
Monroe McDonald

25 Years
Ronald Broatch
Norm Champagne
Walter Davis
Ursula Schneider

20 Years
Claude Baker
Charles Barrett
J Blakeslee
Egon Hagemann

20 Years
Michael Kosters
James Phillips
David Shapiro

15 Years
Dee Cloninger
Hilary Fiscus
Robert Nystrom
Barry Strachan
J W Whitehead

10 Years
Cynthia Fleming
Larry Glindeman
Carey Hobson
Robert Hooper
Donald Jordan
James Larson
Corwin Liston
Ray Miller
Bill Rand
Richard Ratcliff
Tarun Sinha
Michael Stein
Jackie Van Demark

10 Years
Alan Waller
Paul Warg
Kenneth Wilkerson
R Williams

5 Years
David Boatright
Ken Borowitz
Harman Cadis
Victor Ferreira
Evan Lederman
Denis Martin
David McClean
Claude Mischler
Jon Murray
Mark Reischmann
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...from Rallye

A second stop was remarkable, The Bio-Design Institute at ASU. A large building with laboratory's responsible for intense study of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and many other diseases, as well as other day-to-day practical issues funded by grants from the likes of TGen and NIH and other industry giants. They are currently building an additional lab building for overflow which will include a small, but extremely powerful "linear accelerator" that instead of requiring miles of underground tunnels such as found at CERN in Switzerland and the Argonne National Laboratories outside Chicago, can be housed in a basement of a building, of course with the necessary X-Ray shielding. If successful, it will be beneficial to the Educational Investigative Community at ASU and other Universities and Colleges worldwide.

After the tour of the labs the Rallye continued to its completion at Café Boa in downtown Tempe. We enjoyed an Italian dinner finished with tasty tiramisu and the combined scores for mileage, picture, and clue accuracy for this, apparently "difficult", Rallye were tabulated, and awards were handed out to the winners:

- 1st Place: Todd Bush & Stephanie Murphy 79.398%
- 2nd Place: Arnie Brown & Matt Crawford 74.661%
- 3rd Place: Don & Brynn Burton 70.582%

The Rallye Masters 'thanks' go out to Ron and Rhonda Borino for selection and coordination of Café Boa for our Awards Banquet as well as for the connection to the ASU tours. We also want to thank ASU, and of course Charlie Alfano, Mike Tegge and Trevor Shipman of Mercedes-Benz of Gilbert for their facility and lunch at this year's Havasupai Rallye.



Above: Our docent and a full scale model of the Mars Opportunity Rover
 Below: "Podium" Winners of the 2017 Havasupai Rallye!
 Left to right 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place finishers

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In the Mirror: Up the Creek

Held October 14, 2017

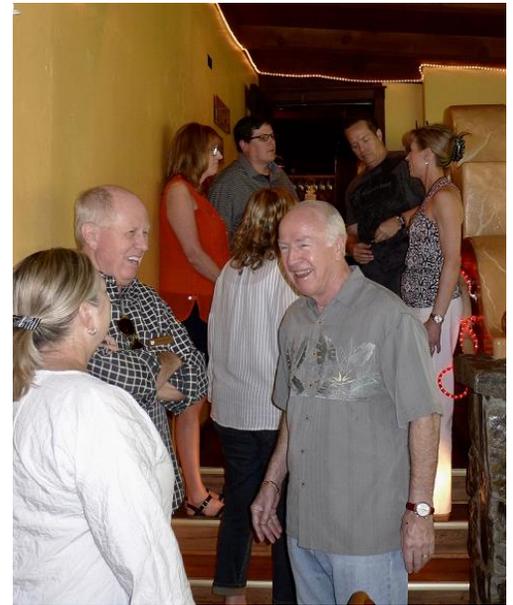
By Todd Bush

The weather was beautiful and we had a great time at Up the Creek Bistro in Cornville.

Over 40 Desert Stars were in attendance for this event. Lunch was served in a private room overlooking Oak Creek while many sampled local grown wines as well as world wines. It was nice to see so many familiar as well as new faces at this event.



There was some after lunch wine tasting at the local tasting rooms in Page Springs as well. Thanks everyone for making it a great event!



In the Mirror: AutoCross

Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 7:00AM

By Matthew Crawford

I stink. Not in the figurative sense, I mean I literally have a bit of pungency about me. It is not too bad, but enough that I need to clean up soon. I've been home for just a short while but I feel the need to get these words down while some of the adrenalin is still in my system. Don't get me wrong it was actually nice that today was not "that hot". At a mere 85 degrees it was almost chilly compared with the valleys weather of late. Standing out in the sun, on the hot asphalt, in jeans, the ambient temperature of the air almost seems irrelevant. But that is what it takes. There's a balance that needs to be kept. To have the fun, one has to put in the time. In this case, what makes this event work is that some get to spend time playing the game, while others maintain the field. Then, when the time comes, the rolls reverse, and the folks who enjoyed become the folks who work. And the folks who functioned get to be the folks who enjoy some seat time. On the track. Behind the wheel. Isn't that worth it all?



The AutoCross (aka "AutoX", or "Solo", or "Autoslalom") event - which a certain breed of Desert Star is drawn to - allowed participants to have some fun in their cars in a relatively safe and harmless manner. No traffic, no pedestrians, no one to tell you to slow down. Just stay on the course, and while not hitting the cones, get as close to them as you can and finish a lap as quickly as possible.

Please see AutoX on page 8

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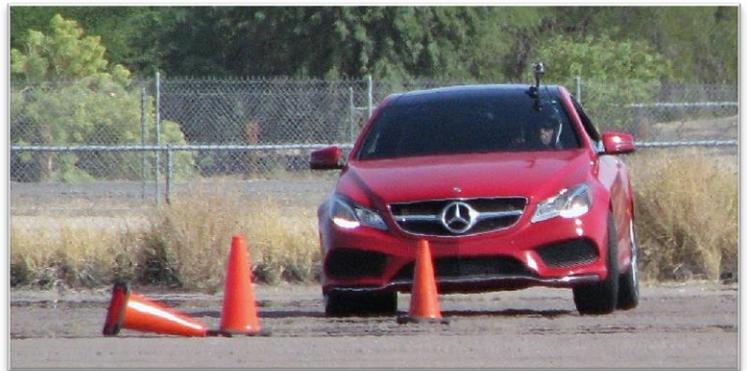
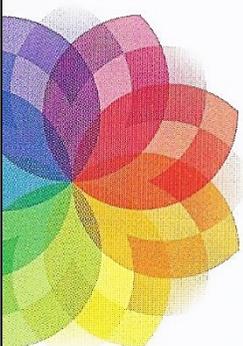
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I arrived early and setup a base camp with our Desert Stars tent and some folding chairs borrowed from our President. I had a cooler with water and some snacks to ensure we were comfortable. One by one, members who enrolled showed up, signed their waivers and enlisted into a position whereby they could perpetuate the events of the day. Walt came with (one of) his 'LaCosta Edition' R129 SL's, and its matching-paint trailer with an alternate set of wheels and tires (he uses track tire, like the pro he is!) Juan arrived with his beautiful E550 coupe and a desire to see how his chariot faced the jungle. And while he loves his "black beauty" S-class sedan, Henry arrived in style with Kathy on his arm and a convertible Mustang under his right foot. As I previously wrote, my E350 Estate wagon was my partner for the dance. It stood in some contrast to pretty much everything else out there as well. Unfortunately Mark was not able to bring out his "16 valve" but he did arrive as a support member, took some nice photos and was, as always, a great guy to have around.

The Porsche Club was well represented with 911s, 914s, and Caymans. Corvettes of several generations were not uncommon, and were overall the fastest of the day. Some Miata's and S2000s also were out to play in the environment of their design. It was a nice mixture of purpose tuned cars, set up specifically for these events, and other daily driven cars which normally sit in garages or traffic and deal with the drudgery of commuting.

Please see *AutoX* on page 10

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Tech Session: Tools of the Trade November 11, 2017

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night

Email Address: _____



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

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

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Holiday Party December 3, 2017

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night

Email Address: _____

Cost for this event is \$48.00 per person.

We welcome an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots donation

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MB Enthusiasts Dinner January 20, 2018

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

Address: _____

City: State/Prov.: Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____ Day/ Night

Email Address: _____

“People’s Choice Car Show” Car You Would Like to Show at the Dinner: _____

Cost is \$55 per person. Registrations should be paid by January 12h, after that date or for questions call.

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.



...from AutoX

Approximately 26 cars were set in two groups of 13. Half got to take to the course, one by one, and turn 4 laps each. Corner workers, timers, and others on hand ensured that the course operated safely and maintained the designed layout by resetting any relocated cones and guiding any lost drivers, should they have gotten lost out there. By 11:30am each group had run once, and we all took a break to have a hotdog from the vendor on hand and talk about the fun we were having. This also gave us time to meet with other club members who came out to watch and enjoy the cars. We had three members drive down from Prescott, and others, including Rich S. from the east valley, came all the way out as well. During the break, Juan and I learned we had each managed to trigger our Mercedes safety features in our E-class cars. Somewhere with the spirited driving, quick maneuvering, hard braking and/or skidding, we each caused the "PRE-SAFE" system to engage and roll up the windows (down by the rules) while we were mid lap. I think that means we were really having some fun! Walt even managed a roll bar deployment in his SL! If we can claim using these systems in a non-emergency scenario, we can attest to the function of systems working we would otherwise not care to ever see in use. It is nice to know they are there.

We did two more sessions after lunch, improving on our lap times if possible, and enjoying the day. It was, as one member put it, a bit of a warm full day, but of course a more enjoyable than a ordinary Saturday ticking off the "honey do" list! Indeed!

I wish to thank the Arizona Porsche Club of America, Mr. Kim Kemper and Mr. Rick Althouse for inviting us to their event. They hold open events like this so we can all spread the expense and allow us days like this at a very reasonable cost. Their open door policy is a reflection of their welcoming attitudes. Thank you! I look forward to doing this again.



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Classifieds



20" AMG Chrome Wheels

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

November 5, 2017	Sunday	Dia de Los Muertos Luncheon
November 11, 2017	Saturday	Tech Session: Tools of the Trade
December 3, 2017	Sunday	Holiday Party
January 20, 2018	Saturday	MB Enthusiast Dinner
February 24, 2018	Saturday	Poker Run
March 16-18, 2018	Fri – Sun	Las Vegas Drive
April 21-22, 2018	Sat - Sun	M-BEAT Tour

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