



Nov-Dec 2018

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Holiday Party & Lunch

December 2, 2018 at Noon

By Debbie Ichiyama

The holidays are upon us! So make sure to join us on the 2nd of December for the Desert Stars Annual Holiday Party - with the always-important Member Anniversary recognition celebration. It is time to reflect back on 2018 as we spend time with friends and fellow members, catch up, and enjoy the spirit of the holidays.

This year we will be enjoying a new venue. The luncheon will be in a private pavilion at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club, located at 7505 McCormick Parkway, Scottsdale, AZ 85258. With a separate parking area for us there will be easy access to the pavilion. We will have a no-host bar.

Anniversary celebrants (see page 3 for your name!) must attend to receive your 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!

Page 13 contains the registration form with details. Make this holiday season a special one by joining your friends in the Desert Stars Mercedes-Benz club. Festivities will begin at noon.

See **Happy Holidays** on Page 3



MB Enthusiast Dinner

January 19, 2019

By Karen Manser

As car lovers descend on Arizona for the great car auctions of the valley, we will again celebrate the classic car auction week with the Mercedes-Benz Enthusiast Dinner. We will be sporting a new location for 2019 that hopefully will prove to be the perfect location for our celebration.

This year's event will be held on Saturday evening, January 19th at



See **Auction Dinner** on Page 4

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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

Another year is drawing to an end and I would like to take time to thank everyone for all the work they do to make the Desert Stars the best it can be.

We have had some great events this year including an awesome Havasupai this past month. Read all about it in the Newsletter. Not only a great time, but educational and some folks got to drive in the snow for the first time in years and some for the first time ever.

Over the next few months we will have some events you don't want to miss. The Tech Session, our annual Holiday Party is coming up Dec. 2 and as always it will be a fun to catch up with folks and meet new members. Check out the article for details. And don't forget the MB dinner in January. The Poker run will be late winter early spring; details will be in the next issue. These are just a few of the upcoming events. Rumor has it Bob Yoder is working on something.... Be sure to watch for updates.

Now that the rain has stopped (hopefully) I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather and taking advantage of spending time outside and enjoying driving their cars.

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season!



Debbie

Nov-Dec 2018 Volume 54 Number 6

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Welcome our new Members!

July

Tara Boyd
Millie De Roeck
David Harton
Steven Kamlin
Kenneth Mitchell
Joel Morehouse
Jeff Trumper

August

Tracey Garvey
West Kenyon
Steve Kreiser
Peggy Lorence
Jan Slor
Michael Smith

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Happy Holidays! from page 1

For registration information please see the registration form or contact Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
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William Jackson

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Andreas Kress
David Lindau
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Billy Rhinehart
Richard Schulte
Brent Smith
Richard Sparanese
Stuart Thorn

5 Years
Joseph Alston
Steven Angle
Larry Bryson
Kettisha Colon-Villareal
Charles Dickens
Eddie Fuentes
Kent Howerton
Suneil Jain
Kim Kunasek
Bruce Leimbeck
Edwin Link
Michael McBride
Dieter Schmidt
Marty Sigmund
Frank Wolz
Daniel Wood



This is a happy Desert Star member on his 50th Anniversary – a couple years ago!



Our luncheon overlooks the beautiful course of the McCormick Ranch Golf Club.

Auction Dinner from page 1

VENUE 8600, a contemporary event location located 5 minutes from WestWorld at 8600 E Anderson Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85255. Activities will start at 5:30 PM in the generous 200 spot parking area with the viewing and judging of the "People's Choice" contest featuring MBCA members personal cars.



Following the voting, join us for appetizers and a no-host bar followed by dinner catered by Café Pranzo, one of the valleys premier catering companies. We will also have our usual program featuring industry experts that will give their perspectives on the past week's auctions and current state of the classic car market. Bring your questions and join the discussion.

Watch for updates for other events during Auction Week.




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Tech Session

The Rise, Fall, & Re-Emergence of The Electric Automobile

Electric cars. Not a new thing!

November 10, 2018 at 9:00 AM

By Bud Cloninger

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, the electric automobile is back and will most likely eclipse the production of internal combustion engine in our future cars. Join me at our tech session to explore the beginnings and future of the electric automobile. We will have on display examples of hybrid vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric ("PHEV"), and also battery electric vehicles ("BEV"). With several types on hand we will see the mechanics (and electronics) behind them and talk about how they work. We will look into how hybrid (using both fuel and electric power) cars recharge themselves and how the ones that can be plugged, versus all-electric cars which need to be plugged in are charged.

Also, we will discuss the differences between AC and DC currents and their charging differences. A guest speaker will give us basic information on how BEV electric cars work. Owners that drive these cars every day will also be on hand to answer any questions and talk about their experiences in daily life.

Please join us Saturday, November 10, at M. B. Motors, 2730 E McDowell Rd., in Phoenix, at 9:00 am. The cost is \$15.00 to cover a catered lunch. The session will conclude approximately at 2:00 pm.

Please fill out the registration form or for credit card payments call Debbie Ichiyama at 480-268-9535.

Call Bud Cloninger with any questions about the event at 602-236-6210.

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Mercedes-Benz

The Digital Daimler

By John Goux
Contributing Columnist

2019 Mercedes G-Wagon



Fit for royalty, Mercedes G-wagon was commissioned by the King of Iran in 1979. That's right, not Shah, not Ayatollah, not President, but King! It's old. Forty years in continuous production old. So, you might ask, was it updated along the way? Yes...in 1990. Fast forward 29 years and with Mercedes 2019 update of the G, they hit the spot!

It's rugged – body on frame rugged. It has three 4-wheel drive modes – one for Starbucks drive through, one for Rodeo Drive, and one, if you have the guts, to cross the Serengeti via the Alps. Mind you, this vehicle was developed for military use. These days, it's typically driven by a well-heeled demographic that wants others to know how much they spent on their “jeep”. \$140,000 to start, lightly optioned.

Be that as it may, the 2019 G has unparalleled capabilities. Example, capable of fording 27.6 inches of raging water without modification. Monsoon hits, carpool the neighbors to Saks. Featuring a spankin' new independent front suspension, no bouncing carpoolers off the headliner like old times. Bonus!

The updated G is a handsome brute. Sporting Mercedes posh interior fitment, it adds side pipes for a cracking soundtrack. AMG trim rumbles 0-60 in 4.4 seconds. Feel free to race a Mustang. Should it win, just drive over it at the next stop light.



If my review seems to weave between the sensible and fantastic, well, it's because the G-wagon's properties define it in different ways to different people. Keeping with its dual nature, attached is a sensible, just-the-facts-ma'am, interview of MB G-Class Product Mgr. Paul Harmon by Roman Mica of TFL. Alternately, showing how the West was won by Mercedes, Jason Fenske, pragmatic engineering type, turns macho rollicking reviewer over the universally loved Geländewagen.

G-wagon....G-Whiz!



LINKS:

Jason Fenske of “Engineering Explained” rocks the “Bad Boy” G-wagon review!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=enC3wfy3Dow

Roman Mica and Paul Harmon discuss details of the all-new 2019 G-wagon.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFVTRVve71o

(Alternatively, you can watch these videos on YouTube searching for “G-Wagon Is For Bad Boys” and “Fast Lane Breaking News 2019 G-Class”, respectively.)

In the Mirror: The Art of the Wheel

Held September 15, 2018

By John Goux

The tire art poster tour at Discount Tire was a great success. What we enjoyed were hundreds of interesting and wonderful posters and other art to see in Discount Tire's gorgeous corporate offices. Not to mention, the bigger than life-size, 'Fisk Boy' sculpture, greeted us in the lobby!

At the conclusion, Susan Driver, the tour guide, gave each couple a beautiful coffee table book containing all the posters just viewed. Susan even autographed copies!



Afterwards, about half the group caravanned to Carrie Curran Studios. We noshed on yummy cheese and crackers while creating spectacular desert landscapes. Carrie expertly guided us to the masterpiece results you see in our group photo.

A big thank you goes out to Discount Tire and Carrie Curran. Everyone really enjoyed our artsy event!

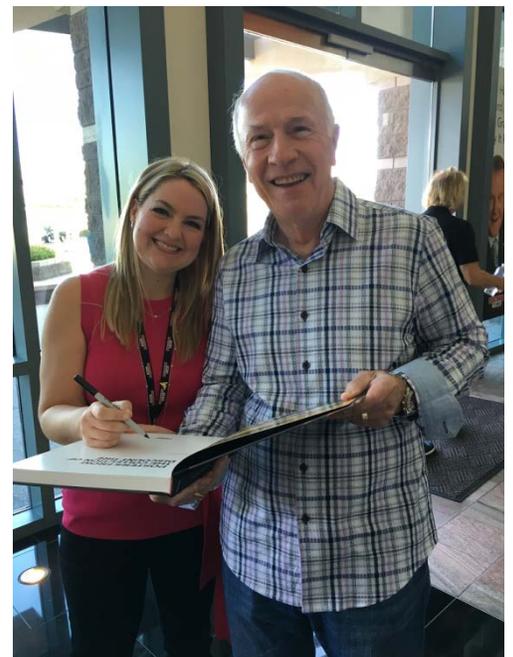


There's a new star rising in the Valley.

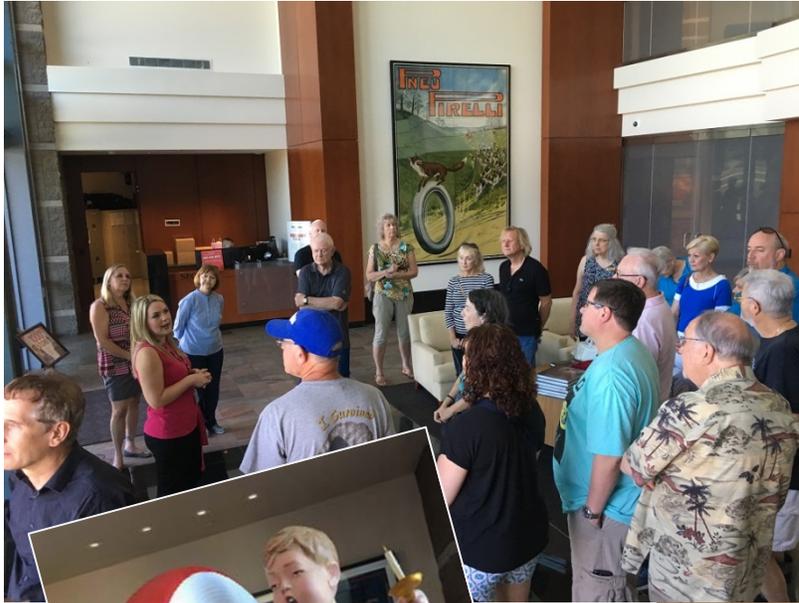
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Susan Driver, author and docent for our event, autographs John Pin's copy of the Halle art collection book.



Left: The Discount Tire corporate office lobby

Below: Carrie Curran guides members through painting a desert landscape scene

Bottom, Left: Members snacked on a wonderful spread while John Goux maintained full serving trays

Overlay: "Fisk Boy" from the main lobby was impressive



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In the Mirror: Havasupai Rallye 2018

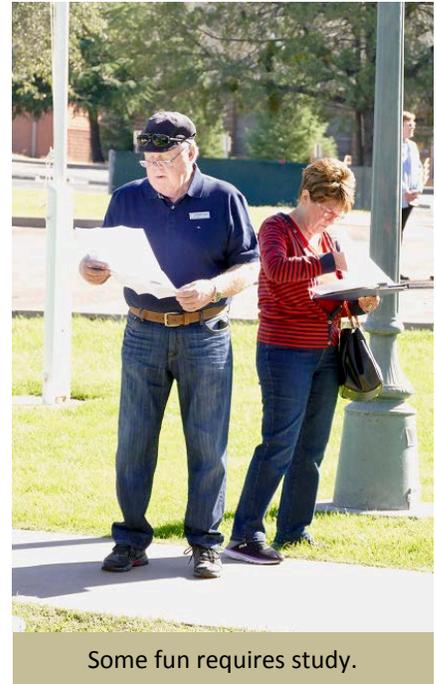
Held October 5-7, 2018

By Chuck Stanford, Jr.

Havasupai 2018 may have created an Arizona Heritage all its own....

Seventeen daring rallye teams, the most in recent years, enjoyed spectacular scenery and beautiful weather as Havasupai 2018 helped to create some wonderful memories. The weather cooperated with a Chamber of Commerce Mountain Saturday --- perfect for those who braved the crisp Fall day to bring out the SL and put the top down. Of course Sunday was another story altogether.... more on that later!

Friday night started out with happy-hour hospitality at the Mazatzal Casino in Payson. Following a quick Saturday breakfast at The Majestic Mountain Inn, rallyemasters Chuck and Ava Stanford sent our intrepid rallyers off, searching for the cryptic route to our eventual destination in Pinetop. Along the way, we saw dramatic mountain vistas, met interesting locals, perused museums, and learned more about Arizona's Rim-Country heritage than most of us knew existed. Did you know there have been more Sasquatch sightings in Coconino County than any other county in Arizona? We also discovered "redneck surf and turf" (mule and trout), "erotic bovines" (Pete's Topless Entertainment) and "Opera in the Pines?" (Tosca Rd)!



Some fun requires study.

A scenic and relaxing lunch was enjoyed by all at the Torreon Golf Club before heading into Show Low and Pinetop. Our attitude adjustment and awards dinner was at Pinetop's historic Charlie Clarks Steakhouse, celebrating 80 years of serving guests in Rim Country.

Everyone at the awards dinner took home prizes including the traditional Indian Kachinas for the winners, and framed photos for all. This year, our first place award went to ecstatic first-time explorers Jim and Debra Larson, who persisted as only an English Teacher and "punster" could. Ron and Rhonda Borino were thrilled to finish in second place after "not really competing..." and Harmon and Susan Cadis rounded out the Kachina Crowd with a solid third place showing. Best of the rest were Terry Horne and Pat Miller in fourth place.

What did the rest think? "We really had so much fun on the road rallye," said one participant. "This was the first one we've attended and it was better than we could have imagined! Seeing parts of our state that we didn't even know existed was the icing on the cake!"

"It was so much fun, and we really love our photo!" said another.

Others commented, "Beautiful part of Arizona, and we got to see things we 'city folks' don't get to see often. And arranging for snow on Sunday was simply the cherry on the ice cream sundae."

See *Havasupai* on Page 10



"Safety first"? – Ed.



Cruising through the Forest Lakes General Store was this cool Freightliner model truck that managed to elude ALL of our inquisitive rallye teams... Oh well, maybe too much bourbon?



Havasupai from page 9

Snow? Yup! We apparently used up all our good weather on Friday and Saturday, because everyone going home on Sunday morning opened the window to snow showers that left some of the white stuff on our cars. I thought we were back in Buffalo!! But the snow subsided quickly as we descended on US 60 toward the beautiful Salt River Canyon, and we got to see yet another of Arizona's scenic treasures.

Plan now to hit the road with the Desert Stars for another fun-filled weekend next fall. Havasupai is an experience not to be missed for newcomers and veteran members alike.



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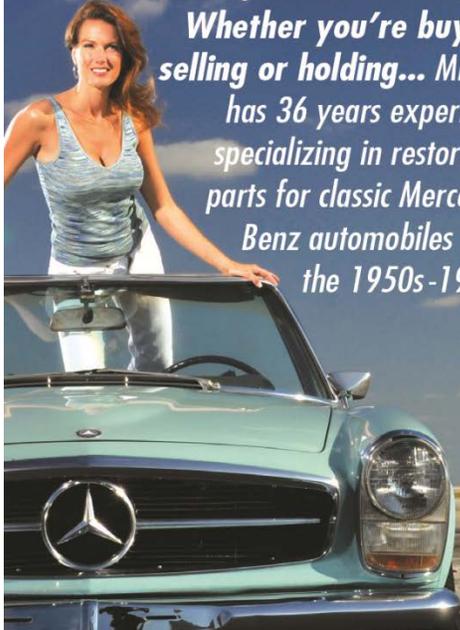
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Local Car Events

Join in local events with other car enthusiasts. We happen to have some of the country's most active car culture right in our own backyard. Come and attend one of these and you will most likely find fellow Desert Stars and their cars at many of these casual events.

1st Saturday: Scottsdale Motorsport Gathering 7:00-10:00 AM Scottsdale 101 Shopping Center
www.scuderiasouthwest.com/smg/

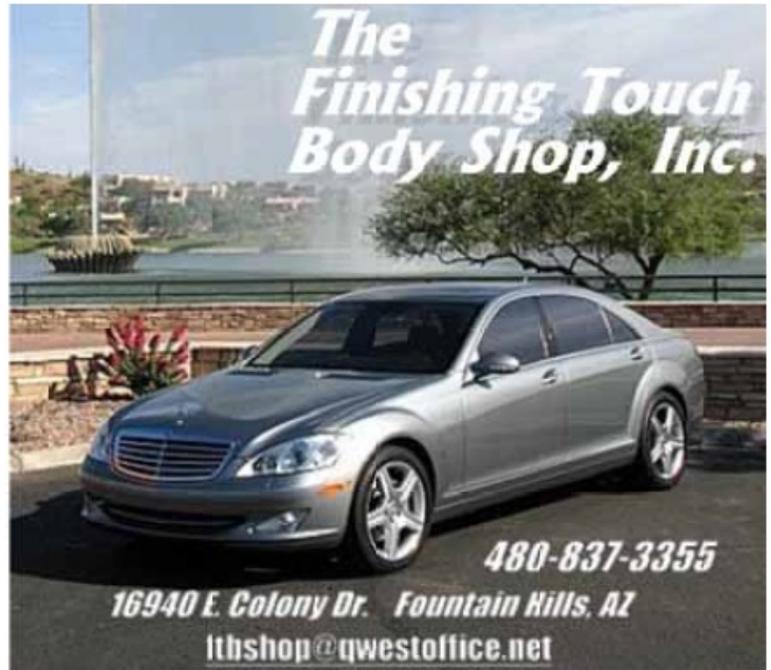
2nd Saturday: Alpios at Troon - Cars and Coffee 7:00-10:00 AM Villages at Pinnacle Peak
www.facebook.com/carsandcoffeepinnaclepeak

3rd Saturday: Penske Racing Museum - Cars and Coffee Scottsdale 8:00-10:00 AM 7125 E. Chauncey Lane
carsandcoffee.com/clubs/scottsdale/



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Registration Information

Tech Session
Saturday, November 10, 2018
Please Register and Pay by November 7, 2018

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

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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 6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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

Holiday Party & Luncheon
Sunday, December 2, 2018
Please Register and Pay by November 26, 2018

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

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

\$53.00 per person. No-host bar.



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MB Enthusiast Auction Dinner
Saturday, January 19, 2019
Please Register and Pay by January 10, 2019

Name(s) registering: _____ Number Attending _____

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

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

\$65.00 per person. No-host bar.



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Nov-Dec 2018

Update your email address with The National Business Office
Contact our Membership Chair, Debbie Ichiyama, at 480-268-9535 or dichiyama@me.com

SAVE THESE DATES

November 10, 2018	Sat	Tech Session – Electric Cars
December 2, 2018	Sun	Annual Holiday Party
January 19, 2019	Sat	MB Enthusiast Dinner
TBD Early 2019	TBD	Annual Poker Run
April 13-14, 2019	Sat-Sun	M-Beat Rallye

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