

Star Night

Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 6:00 PM
By Karen Manser

Limited Seating - Sign-up Early!

We had another great time at Atlas Bistro last year so we have booked it again for Saturday, June 8th, starting at 6:00 PM. The restaurant is located at 2515 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85257.

We will start with some social time where everyone can visit, open their wine and share with your friends if you so desire. Then on to a great dinner.

If you did not attend last year, 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 and it is likely we will have the whole room to ourselves as we did last year.

Please check out the website at atlasbistrobyob.com to see a sample menu/pricing and 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. Please 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.



Breakfast at Soul Cafe

Saturday, July 20
Arrive 7:30 - 8:30 AM
By Karen Manser

Trying to keep things interesting, we will be trying a new event in July!

It is certainly not "Porsches and Pancakes" but it could



perhaps be Mercedes and ? While we cannot seem to come up with any corresponding alliteration, or anything that rhymes for our brand, we do know many of the local clubs meet regularly for breakfast, coffee, and camaraderie at [Soul Cafe](#) (click to see the menu!), and they all rave about it.

So, save Saturday July 20th and we will get more information out in an email. Soul is on the corner of Pinnacle Peak and Hayden in Scottsdale. Arrival time will be between 7:30 and 8:00 AM.



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President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

What a great start Desert Stars has had so far this year. We've had so many great events this his year and more importantly we got to meet many Desert Stars members coming to their first event. The MB Enthusiasts Dinner, Gilbert Dealership tech session, and driving events such as the excursion to Vulture Mines, and the traditional spring events Poker Run, and the MBEAT. These events are always a hit and fun for all.

Things slow down a bit during the summertime, but before you know it, Desert Stars will be back to full swing. This fall, we once again have an overnight weekend Havasupai Rallye and I have it on good word that it will be awesome.

As a club we are here for you. We would like to know what other types of events you would like to have and we would also like to ask anyone who would like to help in organizing an event to contact either Karen Manser or myself. Whether it is a drive to escape the heat this summer or a Star Night we would like to hear your ideas and solicit your help.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Contact info:

Karen Manser: nspinaz@gmail.com

Debbie Ichiyama: dichiyama@me.com



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Welcome our new Members!

February

Jeff Carter

David Cesal

Richard P Hanson

Jason Meyer

Ronald Morgan

Mark Vogel

March

Dawn McCormick

James Morse Sr

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Local Car Culture: Ongoing Events and Gatherings

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

Alpios at Troon - Cars and Coffee

The Second Saturday of every month 7:00-10:00 a.m., Villages at Pinnacle Peak

<https://www.facebook.com/carsandcoffeeatpinnaclepeak>

Penske Racing Museum - Cars and Coffee Scottsdale

The Third Saturday of every month 8:00-10:00 a.m., 7125 E. Chauncy Lane

<https://carsandcoffee.com/clubs/scottsdale/>

Autocross with the Porsche Club

We have an open invitation to join the Arizona Section of the Porsche Club of America (AZ PCA) when they host open Auto-X events. See az.pca.org for more information on Autocross. Check MotorsportReg.com for dates (search "AZ PCA"), and to register, and pay for the events.



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Mercedes-Benz



114 DEGREES

High Country Get Away

Saturday & Sunday, August 10-11
SAVE THE DATE!

By Mark Ichiyama & Ron Borino

Desert Stars would like you to save the weekend of August 10 & 11, 2019 for a Saturday overnight in the cooler temps of Northern Arizona. Plans are in the works for a casual weekend excursion where there are more pine trees than cactus and certainly a lot fewer traffic lights. Stay tuned and more details will be in the StarDust Newsletter, email announcement and our Facebook page.



After 25 minutes of him talking, she caved in and joined the Desert Stars. Way to go, Bob!

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The Digital Daimler

By John Goux
Contributing Columnist

“GLE CLUB!” 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLE

Wanna join the coolest GLE(E) Club in the world? Hit all the high notes like Kelly Clarkson, harmonize like the Temptations, rock choreography worthy of American Bandstand or Soul Train? Then this is your jam – Mercedes-Benz 2020 GLE.

The Audition – February 1997, Vance, Alabama, Mercedes M-Class debuted. Built in ‘Merica, it was an instant hit – Elvis on 4 wheels. It harmonized perfectly with American families’ need for the right amount of space, comfort and drivability.



Making The Group – The M-Class didn’t just make the group, like ABBA, it created a supergroup. Mama mia! First year on tour Merc’s SUV garnered a few awards: 1998 Motor Trend “Truck of the Year”, 1998 North American “Truck of the Year”, and 1999 World Car Award. The GLE (nee M-Class) was, and is, The Beatles of SUVs.

The Show – fast forward, GLE Club 2020 is revamped for a modern audience. MBUX “Hey Mercedes” is the breakout star. With her digital interface, drivers can navigate with real time video of the road ahead, customize gauges, use the touchscreen, touchpad, gesture control or voice control and, if needed, get help with the kid’s homework. “Hey Mercedes” is a show-

stopper! Her cast is a chorus of improvements: 48-volt 3.0-liter super-turbo Inline-6 with hybrid assist creates a powerful performance. A facelift, tummy tuck (shorter overhangs) and booty enhancement help make this star shine. Plus, this chorus member gives massages that’ll have you saying, “Mmmm...Mercedes!”

The Encore – as with any great performance, you want more. You get it! Taking a cue from Little Eva, the GLE brings down the house doing “The Locomotion”. That’s right, she jumps up and down like a crazed mosh pit to get unstuck from sand or snow. Even better, use the E-Active Body Control with independently controlled dampers/springs at each corner to “bailar La Bamba” for the homies. You’ll see, GLE Club can throw a dance party!

To a unanimous chorus of praise from all corners of the auto press, Mercedes-Benz has put out a hit with the new GLE that truly rocks the motto, “The Best or Nothing”.

Here to DJ the greatest hits of Mercedes 2020 GLE, including CURVE corner carving, is Lyn Woodward of KBB.com. Enjoy the show!

LINKS:

Lyn Woodward of KBB.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD0sZHuyBGE>

(Alternatively, you can watch this video on YouTube by searching for “Lyn Woodward 2020 Mercedes Benz GLE”.)

Havasupai Rallye

Fri-Sun, October 4-6, 2019

By Todd Bush et al

This year, the Desert Stars will enjoy the tradition of the fall classic Havasupai Weekend format which made its return last year to much success.

Start planning now for a road trip that will take us through the United States' aeronautical and Cold War past. Jim and Debra Larson and Todd Bush and Stefanie Murphy are organizing this trip through our yesteryear that will include a traditional distance and observation rallye combined with lots of hospitality thrown in on Friday and Saturday nights.

We are finalizing accommodations that will include a nice resort style hotel and delicious dining options. So, get your navigator ready, and save these future dates as we get set to fly into our past.



A Havasupai Rallye look ahead, a Titan II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.



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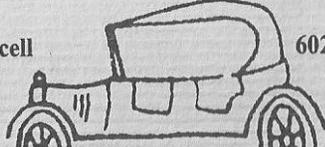
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Classified Ad



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In the Mirror: Peck and Hunt

Held March 2, 2019

By John Goux

Systems set to the SE Quarter of Loop 202, namely Mercedes-Benz Gilbert, some thirty-five Desert Star club members navigated to the "Peck & Hunt" event.

Once there, we did indeed "peck" on a perfectly paired event cuisine of Chick-fil-A! After we stuffed our beaks, it was off across the dealership for what was certainly THE HARDEST scavenger hunt of all time! Do you know the two available wheel base lengths on a Mercedes Sprinter? Neither did we. (It turns out 144" and 170") Nevertheless, we did all know Mercedes' Tri-Star logo stands for Land, Sea and Air. Yay!!

After that, things came much more in focus as we experienced the digital infotainment of "Hey Mercedes". Featuring game changing technology, the folks at Mercedes-Benz Gilbert demonstrated just how capable Miss Mercedes "MBUX" is in the new A220 and (having arrived 3 months early) the 2020 GLE 350.

Wow! Just wow!

Ask, "Hey Mercedes?", and, ye shall receive: the best navigation display in the world, tips for local Mexican food, where to drop off your dry cleaning, how to make your wife happy at ALL times! Maybe not the last item, but you get the gist. "Hey Mercedes" is like Alexa, except she has a Bavarian accent. Kidding! "Hey Mercedes" ability to control car features, make calls, schedule meetings, answer homework questions, find a recipe, change the cabin temp. etc., is, well....just mind blowing.

It was a fun event that provided club members an opportunity to see Mercedes-Benz Gilbert. Finally, a big "Thank You" goes to Bill Hilbun, Manager MB-Gilbert, for hosting.



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In the Mirror: Poker Run

Held March 23, 2019

By Harmon & Susan Cadis

In this year's annual Poker Run we had 30 club members participate. The Poker Run/Tour started at Mercedes-Benz of Chandler where we enjoyed their hospitality and snacks while we filled their lobby with Members. Next, we were off to Boyce Thompson Arboretum, to get just a taste of this very interesting State Park that few know about. We had a Bonus stop this year at the World's Smallest Museum in Superior. The entire museum is just one aisle, so it made a good quick stop (also the mileage to the stop was wrong so some missed it).

Then we ventured off through some great canyon scenery to Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum in Miami (AZ). The exhibitions cover many fields of interest from the mines, the different cultural ethnicities of the area, and life in the booming mine town from the late 1800's onward. Also, a good place for the group picture! Next was Globe Historic District, downtown town Globe. Poker players found whatever they liked from ice cream and antiques to libations at the local Irish pub.

Finally, players had to put their hands on the table to see who would take home the winnings at Sam and Luca Rustic Kitchen. Cold libations and hot appetizers were waiting. All had a great dinner and wonderful service in our own private dining room.

First place honors go to Frank Wolz's Grandson, while Bob Yoder took second place, Kathrine Coult came in third. The low hand was held by Terry Coult, and yes, he got a prize too!



Above: Outside of the Bullion Plaza Cultural Center in Miami, AZ

Right: Stephanie hoping to draw a good card!



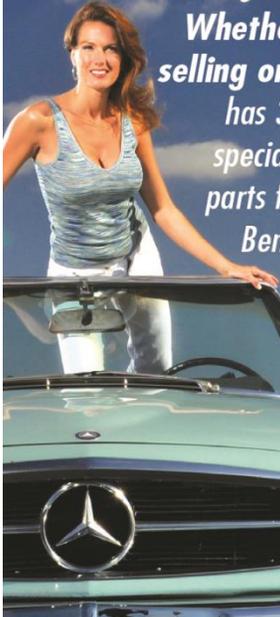
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Above: Prize Ceremony at Luca Rustic Kitchen

Below: 1st Place looks exhausting!

Bottom: Tops down in Historic Miami, Arizona



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In the Mirror: MBEAT

Held April 13-14, 2019

By John Hutchison

Hey Desert Stars Members, listen up!

This year's M-B.E.A.T. was a "blast" from the past with 13 cars (9 M-B's, 1-Porsche, 1- Jaguar, 1-BMW and 1-Nissan) and 24 members and guests present.

Starting with breakfast on Bob at Denny's, we were well fed and treated before we got on the road, with gifts of a 6-way screwdriver and a Mercedes-Benz hat for each car. Our start was a bit later than we would have liked, but the shortened route this year allowed plenty of time at each scheduled activity during the morning.

Our first stop was in Wickenburg for a group picture. Unbeknownst, when we arrived at Coffinger Park, our usual pit stop, the parking lot was completely full; the town was hosting a children's Easter Egg hunt on the green. We persevered and were able to get all thirteen cars in one section of the parking lot for a group shot by our photographer Mike Goodwin, an invited guest from the Jaguar Club.



Breakfast and the rallye handouts were dealt with before hitting the open road.

After the short tour of the park, we headed northbound on Route 93 and then onto Route 89 for the small, and sometimes invisible towns of Congress, Glen Ilah, Yarnell, Peeples Valley and Kirkland Junction, ending up in Skull Valley for a refreshment break and a short walk to the Elementary School to see their now-annual car show. Although the show was nothing like the recent Good Guys in Scottsdale, it never-the-less had an interesting group of hot rods, vintage classics, low-riders, trucks and motorcycles for viewing.

We were then on our way via Iron Springs Road to Whiskey Row in Prescott where the original B.E.A.T. used to have the entire street reserved for parking. A few of our cars were lucky enough to find parking on the main drag; the rest found space in the Parking Garage which is convenient to the back door into The Palace Restaurant where we had lunch and



Continued on next page...

May-June 2019



From page 11

Above: "When we arrived at Coffinger Park, our usual pit stop, the parking lot was completely full!"

Left: Everyone enjoyed lunch before heading off to Flagstaff.



were able to watch a friendly poker game hosted by a number of townies dressed up in 1890's costume. The two law enforcement agents (town sheriffs) in the game were "dressed to the nines"!!!

After a great lunch, everyone was given free rein for the afternoon on the continued drive to Flagstaff. Some chose to walk and shop Prescott; others followed the route through the northern part of Prescott and the twisty road across Mingus Mountain to Jerome, and then through Old Town Cottonwood and on to Sedona and Flagstaff through Oak Creek Canyon.

It was a perfect day for driving; sunny, moderate temperature (tops down) and unbelievably sparse traffic all of the way. To our surprise, there wasn't even a traffic problem going through Sedona; they have now staffed two traffic direction positions in the downtown area!!

After checking-in at Little America in Flagstaff, most all the cars went through the photo-station in the West parking lot for individual pictures with their car (mounted and handed out at breakfast Sunday morning). Happy Hour and dinner at the hotel topped the evening of this very successful car event. We are looking for even more members to sign up for next year's event.

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SAVE THESE DATES

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July 20, 2019	Sat	Breakfast at Soul Cafe
August 10-11, 2019	Sat-Sun	High Country Get Away
Oct 4-6, 2019	Fri-Sun	Havasupai Rallye
Dec 8, 2019	Sun	Holiday Party

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