



# SAGUARO STAR

Mercedes Benz Club of America – Chaparral Section

*Serving Southern Arizona*

FROM THE DESK OF MICHAEL WELTON..

Greetings to all of our dedicated and loyal Board Members, Members at Large and interested parties.

2023 has been a great year so far. A loyal group of us "raced" up Mt. Lemmon for lunch in Summerhaven. Really a fun drive and got to exercise the suspensions on our Marques.

Included in the newsletter is a great event put on by Desert Stars. Please plan to attend if possible.

Also included is a article by an anonymous author (former USAF pilot) to remain unnamed, that you should definitely read.

We are experiencing some really warm temperatures these days so everyone seems to be staying in. We have not had a board meeting for a couple of months but that will happen soon. Our Treasury is fine with no variance from past reports.

We are in the process of planning a joint weekend event with Desert Stars, in Prescott, in October and more information will follow soon.

Please drive safely and stay hydrated. It is going to be a long summer.

I would really like a volunteer to help plan a monthly dinner get together. If interested, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Welton

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BOARD MEMBERS



MICHAEL WELTON

PRESIDENT

361-648-9692;  
[mjwprofconsult@aol.com](mailto:mjwprofconsult@aol.com)



RUTH MAHONEY

VICE PRESIDENT

520-609-6851;  
[thunderheadmorgans@hotmail.com](mailto:thunderheadmorgans@hotmail.com)

BOARD MEMBERS



JUDY BUCKINGHAM

SECRETARY

520-648-4371;  
[redbjrmd@ix.netcom.com](mailto:redbjrmd@ix.netcom.com)



CYNTHIA VERDUIN

TREASURER

216-571-6707;  
[cynthiaverduin@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiaverduin@gmail.com)

BOARD MEMBERS

HAL BIESTEK

BOARD MEMBER

520-661-1817;  
[hal2pay@msn.com](mailto:hal2pay@msn.com)

BILL VERDUIN

BOARD MEMBER

440-567-9246;  
[billverduin@gmail.com](mailto:billverduin@gmail.com)

GABE STEARNS

BOARD MEMBER

425-891-2904;  
[gabes@watsonchevrolet.com](mailto:gabes@watsonchevrolet.com)

MICHAEL TURNER

BOARD MEMBER

520-274-8452;  
[mrmgturner@earthlink.net](mailto:mrmgturner@earthlink.net)

RICHARD BUCKINGHAM

BOARD MEMBER

520-648-4371;  
[redbjrmd@ix.netcom.com](mailto:redbjrmd@ix.netcom.com)

PAST PRESIDENT

JOHN PETERS

## Minutes from the Board Meeting - Next Meeting will be in late July.

### TREASURY REPORT

Cynthia reported that the club bank account has the same balance as last month - \$2,655.51. She has filed the required AZ corporation report. She is expecting a check from Monsoon Motors for an ad, and Lynn Davison volunteered to check with them as he is planning to go there.

#### Board of Directors Meeting - March 25, 2023, MBCA Southern AZ Club - Chaparral Section

Board members present - Michael Welton, Ruth Mahoney, Judy Buckingham, Cynthia VerDuin, Dick Buckingham, Bill VerDuin, and Michael Turner.

Meetings did not take place during April, May, and June due to planned events that did take place during those months.

### Website and Facebook

Both are currently being updated.

### Membership: Fees for MBCA

3 Years	\$157
2 Years	\$107
1 Year	\$55

## Newsletter Ads

Ads are only \$35 for cards for 4 Issues, \$120 for a half page ad, and \$250 for a full page ad.

Please contact Cynthia VerDuin if you have some interest or email us with some information and we will gladly contact them with some information.



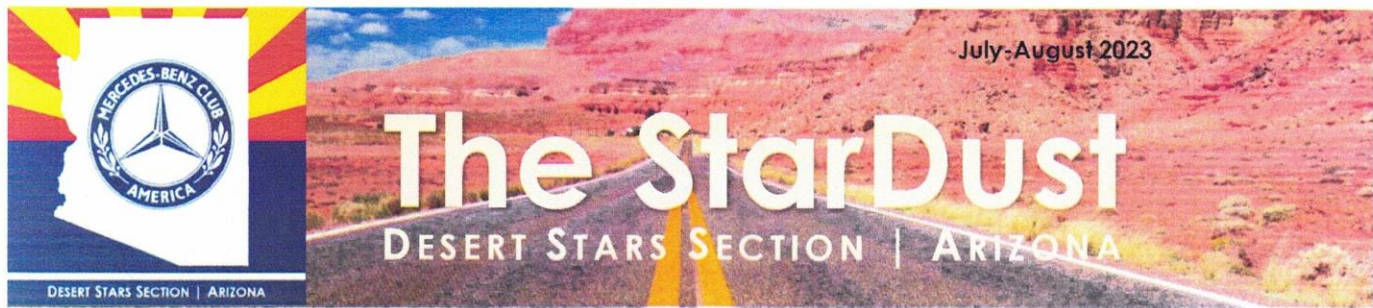
This is the approximate size of cards

## Upcoming Events

**July** - Open

**August** - Open

**September** - The Desert Stars Section is pleased to announce that plans for this year's fall classic Havasupai Rallye are well underway! New members and Rallyemasters Kevin George and Kris Stanford (last year's winners) have selected a scenic location less than 2 hours' drive from the valley, with a route that includes charming towns, hidden gems, and even a few of Arizona's historic roads. You can expect a traditional distance and observation Rallye, complete with a fun and educational theme with plenty of challenges along the way. And let's not forget the hospitality on Friday and Saturday nights! So, mark your calendars for Sept 29th through Oct 1st, see page 5.



By Kevin George and Kris Stanford

### ***Havasupai 2023 is Set – Sign Up TODAY!!***

Mark your calendars now for the 2023 Havasupai Weekend, from **September 29 – October 1**. This year's theme is "The Long and Wine-dy Road" and will take you through **Verde Valley wine country!**

First-time Rallyemasters Kevin George and Kris Stanford George are planning a challenging but enjoyable jaunt featuring a blend of full-bodied education, dry wit, a hint of sarcasm, and balanced (but occasionally spicy) clues. As usual the journey will include several stops – some historical, some educational, and all beautiful! This part of the state is incredibly scenic, particularly in the fall.

For those who aren't interested in the "competition" aspect of the Rallye, we invite you to still come enjoy the weather, camaraderie, and of course, the wine! This year, the Rallyemasters will offer a special map to those who opt out of competing, which would help guide you to our lunch venue and the interesting "pit stops" along the route.

The Rallye route will be round-trip – beginning and ending at Cliff Castle Casino in Camp Verde, about 90 miles North of downtown Phoenix off I-17. As in years past, we'll kick off Friday evening with a "happy hour" reception in town, just a few minutes from the hotel. Saturday morning, we'll hit the road (after a pass or two through the all-you-can-eat Breakfast Buffet) for some truly beautiful drives which may just include back country roads, a quaint town or two, and a few red rocks.

Saturday night, we'll celebrate our accomplishments with a banquet on-site – no driving required, so you can leave your keys behind and truly enjoy the evening among friends! Traditional Kachinas will be awarded to those whose puzzle skills, observations, and mileage best matched the Rallyemasters. Sunday you are free to further explore your favorite part of the area.

**Pricing is \$299 per couple, \$149 for singles.** This includes prizes, entry fees at attractions, and all meals and non-alcoholic refreshments from Friday evening thru Sunday morning. (Fuel and adult beverages not included.)

To allow the greatest flexibility in accommodations, participants may book their lodging directly. To take advantage of a discounted block of rooms, contact **Cliff Castle Casino at (800) 524-6343, and reference Group Code 230929HAVH** for MBCA – Desert Stars Chapter Event. The rate is \$179/night, plus taxes & fees. But there's only 20 rooms available until September 15<sup>th</sup>, so don't delay!

You don't want to miss this amazing weekend! Registration Form on is on page 12.

Hope to see you there!

*Kris & Kevin*

## Havasupai

Please register and pay by Sept 15, 2023

Name(s) Registering: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Day/ Night Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee is \$299 per Couple, \$149 for Singles

Registration Fee includes prizes, entry fees at attractions, all meals, and non-alcoholic refreshments from Friday evening thru Sunday morning. (Fuel and adult beverages not included.)

Remember to book your accommodations directly with the hotel by contacting Cliff Castle Casino at (800)524-6343 and reference Code **230929HAVH** for MBCA – Desert Stars Chapter Event. Please note that there are a limited number of available at the special rate and are encouraged to make reservations by September 15, 2023

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

MBCA Desert Stars c/o Debbie Ichiyama  
6502 E Evans Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Credit Card payments available: Call Debbie Ichiyama at (808)282-5249

## Memories - Franklin Auto Museum

*On March 25<sup>th</sup> approximately 20 of our members and friends gathered at the Franklin Museum in Tucson AZ. This is one of two Franklin car museums in the U.S. The docents onsite enthralled us with stories and facts about their collection of 20+ Franklin air cooled luxury automobiles spanning the years Franklin cars were built, from the early 1900s through the early 1930s. We also saw their 1924 Packard, a car with significant local provenance. All these cars are considered Full Classics by the Classic Car Club of America. The cars and the many buildings comprising the museum were bequeathed, and an endowment established by the late Tucson-based collector. A great resource in an unexpected location!*

*Group Photo*



*Antique Car Viewing*



## *Memories - Sonoita Vineyard Tour*

*On Saturday 20 May five cars with seven wine tasters from the Chaparral Section MBCA met and convoyed to Sonoita, Arizona for wine tasting. Some stopped in Sonoita for lunch supplies. First up was lunch at Callaghan Vineyard's covered picnic area, where we enjoyed vineyard scenery, light breezes, and the mild spring temperatures the area is noted for. Then to the inside for a tasting of Callaghan wines. Particularly notable was the award winning Mourvèdre, but the other reds and a couple of whites were savored too.*

*Now onto Sonoita Vineyards and a drive down AZ 83 through the wine country. Dr. Gordon Dutt was the pioneer of Arizona wine where he created this winery. In spite of a devastating wildfire last summer that destroyed much of their vineyards, they're still operating a tasting room where we enjoyed a shady nook and more wines.*





## *Memories*

### *Mount Lemmon Tour*

*Deep Blue skies, 8,000-foot altitude, bright sunshine, 73-degree temperature, good food, and best of all, the camaraderie that comes with joining other Mercedes-Benz owners and drivers at the Sawmill Run. Eight of us made the trip from the hot and dusty streets of Tucson up the 25 miles to cool Mt. Lemmon and the Village of Summerhaven on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The drive up was spectacular, and I cannot say how much fun this drive was. A "friend" told me that a few laws may have been broken along the way. Chaparral Section runs don't get better than this. Sorry if you missed it. I want to personally thank Lynn Davidson for putting together the trip and all the associated details and correspondence with our members.*

*Michael Welton, Chaparral Section President*

# *Memories*

## Mountain View



Group Picture



# Talent Among Us

A Moonlit Drive on NM 35

By

Corky Dankwine

*This drive took place several years ago. As there may have been a few minor traffic law infractions, I'm writing with a "nom de plume."*

I stepped out of the restaurant into the cold winter air and was startled by just how bright the landscape was, illuminated by a full moon reflected by the layer of snow on the hills defining the Mimbres Valley in southwest New Mexico. My task was a 25 mile drive back to my little home near the south end of the valley.

As I wheeled out on to NM 35, I rolled the sunroof all the way open on my car, spilling all that moonlight inside, but some cold air too. The automatic climate control took over and immediately flooded the interior of the car with warmth.

My drive this night was a late "C Class" Mercedes-Benz, one of the last to be equipped with that big smooth, torquey straight six engine providing drive through MB's properly set up automatic transmission. In spite of the cold (25F or so) air temperature the tires had plenty of grip on the bare paved highway. Only the roadsides and hills were covered with that snow.

All that reflected light made my drive that much safer because I could completely view the valley floor and roadway even into the pines that encroached the road. This eliminated the hazard of small or large furry creatures who might be tempted to enter the road and cause a collision. Likewise, there was no traffic, and I could clear traffic for some distance both ahead and behind. About a mile after starting out, I saw some headlights enter the road behind me. My rate of travel quickly outdistanced them. I could use the entire road, both lanes if I desired, to quicken my speed.

Continued page 10

I was very familiar with the road, having driven it many times over the past years in all kinds of lighting and weather conditions, but most recently I had driven up to the restaurant only that late afternoon.

All this enabled me to enjoy the car's performance as it was engineered to be used. Down past Lake Roberts, over the continental divide, switching from the south side of the valley to the north, then back again, away I drove with only the kind of driving enjoyment few get to experience on a public road. That, my dear readers, is what it's all about: using a vehicle the way designers, engineers, and builders meant.

Alas, my travels soon ended. After the smooth, flat, and straight road began near the post office and the elevation dropped, the snow cover began to relent into patches. Quickly, too quickly for me, I was back entering my driveway, the garage door opening. Once inside, I stopped the ignition and listened to the quiet ticking as the exhaust cooled.

Once inside my home, I poured a couple of fingers of a warming beverage and celebrated a drive I will forever enjoy in my memory.

Epilogue: The restaurant is no longer there, moved to town. I no longer own that Mercedes. But I still have that vibrant memory.

Note from the President: All members are welcome to submit any writing that you would like to share with others. I would encourage any artistisc writing.

## *Volunteers Needed*

### **Volunteers Needed for running Events**

**We are looking for members to Volunteer to organize events. You won't be alone doing this; you will have the guidance of folks experienced in running events. Please consider helping us out. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Michael Welton [mjwprofconsult@aol.com](mailto:mjwprofconsult@aol.com) or Ruth Mahoney [thunderheadmorgans@hotmail.com](mailto:thunderheadmorgans@hotmail.com) Events can be anything from a casual lunch, dinner, or a scenic drive.**

## Chaparral Chapter Ads

### Monsoon Auto



**Cole Krages- Service Manager**

service@monsoonauto.com

1170 N. Pantano Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85715 • (520) 296-1037

6722 E. Tanque Verde Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85715 • (520) 305-4908

550 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85706 • (520) 620-9229

Owner Rick Becker - Certified Master  
Mercedes-Benz Technician  
Only OEM Quality Parts  
3 years/36,000 Mile Nationwide Warranty  
\$75 Diagnostic Fee  
Open Monday-Friday 8am - 5pm  
For All Your Vehicle Needs

### Northwest Auto Glass



**Matt Gipson**  
Business: (520) 744-8900  
Cell: (520) 990-3701

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[www.northwestautoglassaz.com](http://www.northwestautoglassaz.com)

## *Independence Day*



*Enjoy your family and friends on this day and celebrate the people that gave us the opportunity to be free to honor them on this holiday.*

*Michael Welton, President*