



July-August 2023

# The StarDust

## DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

### Havasupai

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*

# President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

I hope everyone is having a great summer. For those who are heading out of the Valley, I hope your travels means you are enjoying cooler temperatures.

As a club, Desert Stars is very fortunate to have awesome members and volunteers who work hard to make the club the success it is. I would like to thank everyone who has stepped up for all the hard work this past year.

But we can't do it alone, we need your help. If you have a favorite restaurant that you would like to share with other members, please consider inquiring about setting up a "Star Night" gathering there. If there is any other kind of event that you think the club would like to participate in, please reach out and we are here to help you organize and plan.

Enjoy our summer days here in Arizona and watch for emails about events that may take place during the summer.

*Debbie*



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**Instagram:** [desertstars1962](https://www.instagram.com/desertstars1962)

**Twitter:** [@MBCADesertStars](https://twitter.com/MBCADesertStars)

**Club Email:** [desertstars@desertstars.club](mailto:desertstars@desertstars.club)

## Welcome our new Members!

April

David Enevoldsen  
 Ken Gilbert  
 Byron Jones  
 Howard Lorin  
 Gregory Rogers

May

Craig Crouch  
 John Harkin  
 William Owen  
 Michal Pasiut

"More Than a Car Club | We're a Community"

## Desert Stars Section Officers and Board Members

**Officers:**

**President:**  
 Debbie Ichiyama (808)282-5249  
**Vice President:**  
 Ed Crawford (562) 505-7698  
**Treasurer:**  
 Rhonda Borino (602) 989-6833  
**Secretary:**  
 Katherine Coult (714) 336-6392

**Directors:**

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 David Cesal (858 )736-5985  
 John Hutchison (530) 304-2965  
 John Truttman (480) 695-2591

**SW Regional Director:**

Ron Borino (602 )550-9939

**Chairs:**

**Activities & Events:**

Karen Manser

**Membership:**

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Mark Ichiyama

**Newsletter Advertising:**

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## Exciting News

The Poker Run will be returning.

Watch for updates in future Newsletters and by email.



July-August 2023



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**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 Debbie Ichiyama [dichiyama@me.com](mailto:dichiyama@me.com) or Karen Manser [nspinaz@gmail.com](mailto:nspinaz@gmail.com)  
Events can be anything from a casual lunch, dinner, or a scenic drive.

Thank you!



# Annual Meeting

By Debbie Ichiyama

## MBCA Desert Stars Annual Meeting and Breakfast

Saturday May 6, 2023  
Soul Café 8:00 AM

**Board Members Present:** Karen Manser, Debbie Ichiyama, Katherine Coult, Ed Crawford

**Board Members Absent:** Rhonda Borino, David Cesal, Kathy Hobson, Carey Hobson, John Truttman

**Others in Attendance:** Don & Brynn Burton, Annette Crawford, Harriet & Elliott Gartner, Phil Hammond, John & Marianne Hutchison, Mark Ichiyama, Steve Jensen, Ed & Joyce Kasmar, Nancy Kuhn, Mary Rizza, Greg & Juanell Rogers, Robert Smeltzer

**Minutes taken by: Katherine Coult**

The meeting informally started at 8:00 AM. Twenty-one people were in attendance.

### Recap June 2022 – May 2023

Current Membership is 320

Desert Stars Financial Picture is strong with no debt and with reserves in the amount of \$26,578.70.

Activities and Events include 9 total events which include one Regional and 3 Star Nights.

Class of 2023 Retiring Directors:

Carey Hobson and Kathy Hobson

### Desert Stars Leadership:

Activities and Events  
Advertising  
Membership  
Newsletter Editor  
Publicity/Webmaster

Karen Manser  
Ron Borino  
Carey Hobson  
Debbie Ichiyama  
Mark Ichiyama

Ballots were distributed to vote on the new Board Member Leadership. 21 ballots were obtained in person and 12 ballots were obtained electronically. The new Board Members for Class of 2026 are:

**Board Members Class of 2026**

Brynn Burton  
John Hutchison

**Candidate Slate for Officers:**

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Debbie Ichiyama  
Ed Crawford  
Rhonda Borino  
Katherine Coult

Approval was unanimous.



A business card for Oei design. The left side contains the company logo 'Oei design' in gold and black, followed by 'KIM KUNASEK' in bold black text and 'PRESIDENT' in smaller black text. Below this is contact information: a phone icon with '480.577.4036', a location pin icon with '3200 N Hayden Rd #285, Scottsdale, AZ 85251', an email icon with 'kim@oei-design.com', and a globe icon with 'oei-design.com'. The right side of the card features two architectural renderings of a modern building. The top rendering shows an exterior view of a two-story building with a large glass facade and the word 'Integer' on the roof. The bottom rendering shows a closer view of the building's entrance and landscaping.



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Ron & Rhonda Borino will be attending the event. If you are planning to attend please let Ron know. They will be on the lookout for you. Ron's contact info is [southwestdirector@desertstars.club](mailto:southwestdirector@desertstars.club)

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**Local Car Culture**

***The Scottsdale Motorsports Gathering***

7:00 - 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every month.

Free for spectators!

Market Street at DC Ranch  
20789 N Pima Rd  
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***Highline Autos Cars & Coffee***

7:30 – 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every month.

5415 East High Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85054

***Alpio's @ TROON***

***Car's & COFFEE at Pinnacle Peak***

7:00 – 10:00 am on the second Saturday of every month.

10452 East Jomax  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262



## Tech Session Airpark Collision

By Mark Ichiyama

Having to take your beloved Mercedes to a body shop can be a stressful trip. Not only do we want our car to be repaired but repaired properly and with attention paid to not the cosmetics, but more importantly, that it be “done right.” On Saturday, May 20th, twenty Desert Stars members were shown the current state of vehicle electronics, safety systems and manufacturer recommendations and requirements to repair all components correctly. The importance of proper calibration to the sensors that essentially allow our cars to “see” was stressed. There were also representatives from Automotive Technology Services to assist in the presentation.

Thanks to the folks at Airpark Collision for a very informative and interesting tech session and refreshments.



# Germany Trips

By Chuck Stanford Jr

## Thinking about a European Vacation?

After extended COVID-related delays, Mercedes-Benz officials have enthusiastically invited us back to Germany for 2023, promising a return to former travel patterns and staffing. We are optimistic that our usual venues will be returning to full activity levels and that we'll be conducting a full schedule of activities in Stuttgart and the surrounding areas! We are assembling the schedule and plan to have a full itinerary shortly.

Unfortunately, there were not enough travelers signed up for May 2023 and we had to postpone that trip. However, the September 2023 trip has already reached "critical mass" as of this date, and that trip is a definite GO! **There is still room for additional members to join in for September 11-17!**


In addition, **we have begun making plans for May 2024** and will have those details shortly. The **dates are likely to be May 20-26, 2024**, so start planning now.... We are trying to get a group of Desert Stars travelers to anchor that group!

We certainly hope you'll consider joining us. In the meantime, write or call Chuck Stanford (602-549-4789 or [GermanTrips@MBCA.org](mailto:GermanTrips@MBCA.org)) with any questions you may have, or simply watch this space to get more information.



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## Sponsor Spotlight – Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Arizona Properties

Berkshire-Hathaway HomeServices is the real estate division of the Warren Buffett conglomerate. Joseph is an Associate Broker and a seasoned veteran amongst his peers in Anthem and across the overall Phoenix metro valley. He has been working in the industry for over thirty years in varied roles. Joseph's wife, Fran, aids him in the back-office operations side of the business, and humbly refers to herself as the "silent assistant" and Joseph's "spell-checker." They have been married for over fifty wonderful years!

**Q: Joseph, tell us how you got started in the real estate industry.**

**A:** It all started as a part-time job in college. I was a leasing agent at a rental / apartment complex. I moved on to become a manager within that same leasing company, and obtained my real estate license, then on to become a broker.

**Q: What are some of your other earlier experiences and roles?**

**A:** After becoming a broker, I worked in new home sales for Hallcraft Homes. That's when my interest and involvement in large-scale, residential home sales market began to develop. My move to Beazer Homes as a sales manager gave me the opportunity to later serve as company president. I was responsible for the building of roughly 14,500 homes during my tenure.

**Q: So after those successes, what is your current industry focus, and what sets you apart from other agents and brokers?**

**A:** I give each client my full attention. Whether selling or buying a home, the details and prompt follow up are critical to a smooth, successful transaction. Higher end homes must be marketed differently than the average home, and thus often require a more exacting approach. I'm very good at the details!

**Q: Fran, tell us how you met Joseph, and how you spend your time away from the office and clients?**

**A:** In college, I worked for an attorney in downtown Phoenix. The only lunchtime eatery my budget would allow was at a nearby Jack-in-the-Box. Joseph was working the counter there, and the rest is history. We both are car enthusiasts, especially classic cars, so we spend time going to car shows. We also are involved in a volunteer ministry, and love to travel. Joseph has served on the Board of Overseers for the Phoenix Symphony, helping to promote and market the symphony and its events. But we especially enjoy what we call "Marvelous Mondays," when some of our grandchildren spend each Monday with us. It's a special time for all of us!

**Q: Being that you both love cars, any special Mercedes that you have owned that stands out?**

**A:** Fran owned a '72 280 SE 4.5 as her daily driver. It was a really nice car. Now we drive an E-class convertible and enjoy it very much.

**Q: Joseph and Fran, anything else you want the Desert Stars members to know about you and your services with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices AZ Properties?**

**A:** We are very pleased to have the support of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices AZ. We encourage folks thinking about selling or purchasing a home to check out my happy clients on Zillow.com.

You can also learn more about Joseph, his business, and current listing of available properties he represents by connecting to his internet homepage [josephthompson.bhhsaz.com](http://josephthompson.bhhsaz.com), or via [jthompson241@cox.net](mailto:jthompson241@cox.net) Joseph can be reached at (602) 206-0692.



**Thanks to Joseph and Fran Thompson** for their continued support of MBCA and Desert Stars!

## Havasupai

Please register and pay by Sept 15, 2023

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

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

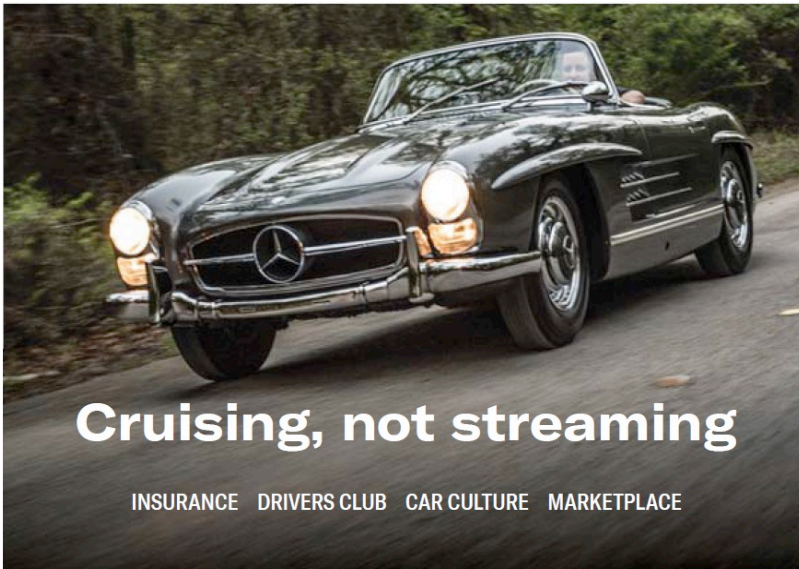
Registration Fee is \$299 per Couple, \$149 for Singles

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



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**Our Regional Director, Ron Borino has a new email address. Please make a note of it in case you want to contact him.**

**[southwestdirector@desertstars.club](mailto:southwestdirector@desertstars.club)**



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Sam Power

[spower@hagerty.com](mailto:spower@hagerty.com)

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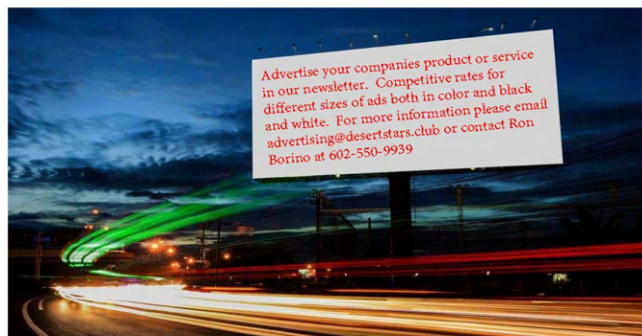
After the success of AMG's first entirely in-house high-performance GT design, the SLS, the racing subdivision of Mercedes-Benz soon set about designing a new GT coupe and roadster. First debuted at the Paris Motor Show in October 2014, the Mercedes-Benz AMG GT benefited from input from Mercedes-Benz Formula 1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton. The new AMG GT featured a spaceframe chassis and body constructed from aluminum alloys, with select magnesium and steel panels. With power coming from a front, midmounted M178 4.0L twin-turbocharged V-8 engine—with the exhaust manifolds and turbochargers nested inside the cylinder banks to minimize turbo lag—the AMG GT C generates 550 HP and 502 lb-ft of torque. With all that power funneled through an AMG 7-speed Speedshift dual-clutch transmission, the AMG GT C is capable of going from 0-60 MPH in just 3.7 seconds with a top speed of 196 MPH. The example on offer is a 2018 AMG GT C Roadster to honor the 50th Anniversary of AMG. Exclusive features unique to the 50th Anniversary editions include: Designo Graphite Gray Magno exterior paint; Silver Pearl and black Nappa leather diamond-stitched upholstery; black chrome front splitter, fender-vents fins, side-skirt inserts, rear-diffuser trim and exhaust outlets; AMG black chrome interior trim; gloss black AMG forged, cross-spoke wheels; AMG full Dinamica suede-covered steering wheel and roof liner; and AMG Edition 50 badging. Additional features include the AMG carbon-fiber engine cover, Burmester sound system, AMG compound braking system, AMG performance exhaust system, active air-management system and Mercedes-Benz's Parktronic parking and Distronic autonomous cruise-control systems. This 2018 Mercedes-Benz AMG GT C 50th Anniversary has been driven less than 120 miles since new. Call Steve Powers to discuss at 248-219-7500.



## Your Company Could Be Here

The club welcomes inquiries from businesses or members who would like to advertise their goods or services to an influential and discriminating group of purchasers. If you know of a business you think should be in this periodical and would like me to try to call on them, please, just let me know.

Call Ron Borino at 602-550-9939 for information







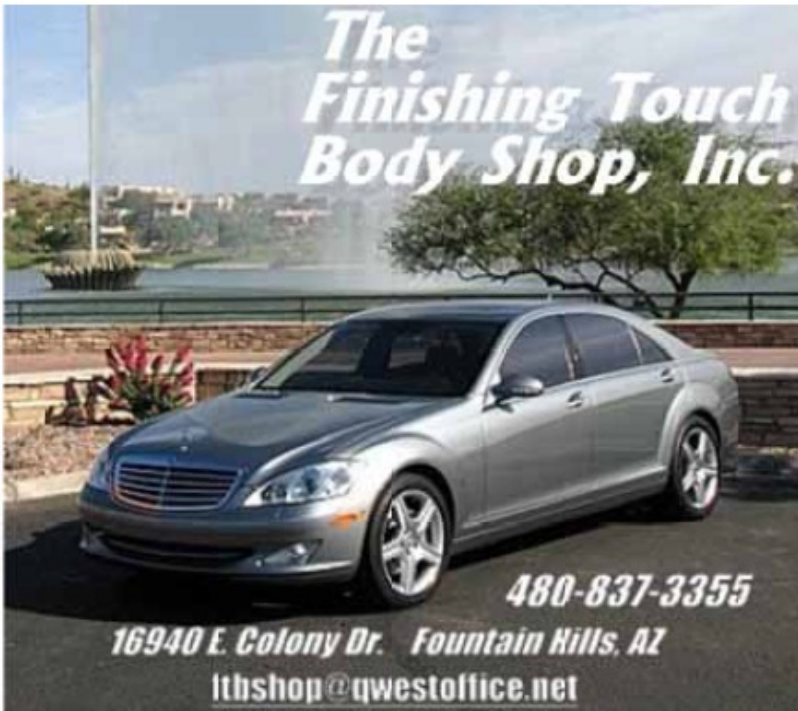
The advertisement features a heart-shaped necklace and a pair of heart-shaped earrings. Both pieces feature a large, faceted blue gemstone (likely a sapphire) set in a halo of smaller clear diamonds. The necklace has a silver-toned chain. The background is a soft, bokeh-style blue with light spots. The brand name 'HAMRA' is prominently displayed in a blue, serif font, with a decorative logo above it. Below the brand name is the contact information: '480.946.5110 | hamra.com'. At the bottom of the image, the text 'CLASSIC COLOR' is written in a large, blue, serif font.

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CLASSIC COLOR

As a Desert Star. You can list your for-sale Mercedes-Benz here and let all our readers know it's available for them to enjoy. Whether you have a high mile driver, or a collectible with more wax than miles on it, contact us and get your car listed in the Stardust. Contact info [StarDustMBCA@gmail.com](mailto:StarDustMBCA@gmail.com)





Please support our awesome sponsors and small business owner, when possible. Let them know you heard of them through the StarDust.

## Chaparral Activities

Our friends in the Chaparral (Tucson) section have sent us a list of their potential activities for the year. It would be great if you could join them for some. More info will be provided as details become available.

If you would like to attend one of the events, contact Mike Welton at [mjwprofconsult@aol.com](mailto:mjwprofconsult@aol.com)

**October** - Prescott with Desert Stars

**November** - Scavenger Hunt/Murals

**December** – Christmas party

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## SAVE THESE DATES

Sept 29 – Oct 1

Fri - Sun

Havasupai

Oct TBD

Prescott with the Chapparral Section

Dec 10

Sun

Holiday Party

**Please see page 17 for a list of events by the Chaparral (Tucson) Section.**

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