



March-April 2023

# The StarDust

## DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

### Desert Stars 2023 Spring Picnic

By David Cesal

On Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm the Club will have a spring picnic in the very heart of central Phoenix. The theme of this event is the celebration of life, friendships and our common passion for our Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Kim and David Cesal are opening their backyard for this club picnic event. There will be light Mexican fare, soft drinks, fun and games. Cost will be \$25 per attendee. The picnic will be BYOB.

Attendees will be limited to 60 current and prospective members. This will be a great time to introduce friends and neighbors to the club.

If you have lawn/camping chairs please bring them. And don't forget your putter.

An exciting update to the event.

Our friends at the Martin Auto Museum, located at 4320 W. Thunderbird Rd., Glendale, AZ 85306, graciously offered to display- at our picnic- a pristine replica of the 1886 Benz Patent *Motorwagen*. This true replica of the fabled automotive relic is an emblematic reminder to all car aficionados of the inventive and innovative daring which propelled the development of the 'Horseless carriage' towards the dawn of the industrial revolution. Moreover, for all Mercedes-Benz fans it is proof of the rich engineering roots, uncompromising Teutonic R&D pedigree that all MB cars share. Can't wait for you to see this showcase vehicle as well as appreciate the company of other members and their vehicles.



This promises to be a fun event. Don't miss out. Please RSVP by 3/11/23.

Registration form is on page 8. For Credit Card payment or questions please call Debbie 480-268-9535



You are welcome to bring your putters

# President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

Spring and warmer weather are rapidly approaching. Major League Baseball's Spring Training is back in action around town and the 2023 F1 Grand Prix racing season starts on the weekend of March 3-5 in Bahrain. This year there will be 23 races. Can Mercedes Silver Arrows win another Constructors Championship? We'll have to wait and see.

This time of year is perfect for taking our favorite cars out for drives, and for those of you who have convertibles, put down your tops down and enjoy the weather and our beautiful surroundings.

This year we are reintroducing the Spring Picnic and a big thank you to David and Kim Cesal for hosting the event at their Phoenix home. It promises to be loads of fun.

Whatever activities you enjoy doing in the spring, enjoy and drive safely.

*Debbie*



March-April 2023

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## Welcome our new Members!

December

Carlos Alvarez  
Frederick Chin  
Jerry Lenhart  
Larry Minchuk  
Tom Minner  
Ernesto Ramirez  
Justin Schmel  
Gary Tenney

January

Craig Beauloye  
Brian Minchuk  
Stepanie Scholler

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

## Desert Stars Section Officers and Board Members

**Officers:**

**President:**

Debbie Ichiyama (480) 268-9535

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Karen Manser (425) 478-5509

**Treasurer:**

Rhonda Borino (602) 989-6833

**Secretary:**

Katherine Coult (714) 336-6392

**Directors:**

David Cesal (858) 736-5985

Ed Crawford (562) 505-7698

Carey Hobson (480) 455-9201

Kathy Hobson (480) 455-9202

John Truttman (480) 695-2591

**SW Regional Director:**

Ron Borino (602) 550-9939

**Chairs:**

**Activities & Events:**

Karen Manser

**Membership:**

Debbie Ichiyama

**Publicity/Webmaster:**

Mark Ichiyama

**Newsletter Advertising:**

Ron Borino

**Newsletter Editor:**

Debbie Ichiyama

## 2023 M-B.E.A.T.

By John Hutchison

It's time to get your Benz on the road to prepare it for spring and summer driving around Arizona!! We have the perfect opportunity for you to consider: The M-B.E.A.T., Mike and Bob's Excellent Auto Tour which is planned for Saturday/Sunday April 22/23, 2023. We are dedicating this year's tour to both the late Mike Goodwin who ran the original tour in the Valley for many years, as well as Bob Yoder who continued Mike's drive tradition.

This year the Tour will begin at Denny's Restaurant located behind the 4 Sons Chevron Gas Station at the Northeast corner of Carefree Highway and Interstate 17 at approximately 8:15 with a driver's meeting where each driving team will receive their driving instruction handout. Although still in the final planning stages, so that we can make sure the proposed roads are open, we are likely to follow the traditional route with an initial rest room stop in Wickenburg at Coffinger Park, and then we will continue to Prescott. We were able to obtain lunch reservations at The Palace Restaurant & Saloon on Whiskey Row, but we must arrive promptly at 11:00 am to be seated and we have arranged for everyone to get separate checks.

Between 1:00 -1:30 pm we will take off from Prescott. You will be on your own so you can spend more time in Prescott, head to Jerome, Williams or Sedona or other stops of your choosing. Regardless of your route or stops, you should be headed towards Little America Hotel in Flagstaff so you can arrive at approximately 4:00 pm. After registration, your first stop is to have your picture taken with your vehicle in the back area of the parking lot on the southwest side. Pictures will be taken until 5:00 pm.

We have negotiated a special room rate of \$179 (plus tax) for a **maximum** of 10 standard rooms with either two queen beds or one king bed at Little America in Flagstaff. If you plan on participating in this event and staying over in Flagstaff for the evening, you should make reservations **NOW** for your driving team by calling the hotel directly at **1-800-352-4386** and mention that you would like the special **Desert Stars Mercedes** room rate for Saturday evening, April 22, 2023. **This special room rate and room availability can be guaranteed ONLY through March 22, 2023, so call right away if you are planning to register for the event.**

Dinner is on your own at any of the excellent restaurants in Flagstaff (be certain to make your reservations well in advance of the Tour), although many of us will probably remain at the hotel and eat in their main dining room.

**The cost for registration for this event is \$25 per car to cover costs; see the registration form on page 8 in this issue of the Star Dust newsletter. Registration deadline for the Tour is April 14, 2023.**

If there are any changes, a final itinerary will be emailed to all registered participants a week before the event is to take place so make sure your email address is listed on the event registration form. If you have any questions on the 2023 M-B.E.A.T., please call Ron Borino at 602-550-9939 or email to [advertising@desertstars.club](mailto:advertising@desertstars.club). We hope to see you all there!



Outside Prescott

March - April 2023



# Annual Meeting

By Debbie Ichiyama

Saturday May 6th

The meeting will be held at Soul Café on May 6th at 8 am. We will have a separate dining section and we will be paying by separate checks. The ballots and information will be brought to you.

Please contact Debbie at [dichiyama@me.com](mailto:dichiyama@me.com) or Karen at [Nspinaz@gmail.com](mailto:Nspinaz@gmail.com) to let us know if you will be attending. If you will not be attending but would like to vote, please send an email to [desertstars@desertstars.club](mailto:desertstars@desertstars.club) and we will send you a ballot.

The slate of officers and directors are below.

<http://www.soulscottsdale.com>

## Annual Meeting Slate of Officers and Directors

### Candidate Slate for Officers

President:	Debbie Ichiyama
Vice President:	Ed Crawford
Treasurer:	Rhonda Borino
Secretary:	Katherine Coult

### Candidate Slate for Class of 2026

Brynn Burton  
John Hutchison



### Repairing Minor to Major Collision Damage

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 2023

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023**  
 7:30AM – 11:30AM  
 FREE ADMISSION

Tempe Diablo Stadium 2200 W. Alameda Dr., Tempe, AZ

**COPPERSTATE 1000 CARS START DEPARTING AT 10:00AM**

**85+** Vintage Copperstate Cars

Room for 200 Classic Cars  
 Bring your car and park with similar marques

Ballpark Concessions  
 Open to the Public

Bring your classic car and park in the West Lot for Copperstate Cars and Coffee

TEMPE

Proceeds from the annual Copperstate 1000 benefit the Phoenix Art Museum

Car clubs are invited to the 2023 Copperstate 1000 send off, which again will be at Tempe Diablo Stadium on Sunday, April 16, 2023, starting at 7:30 am. Car clubs and local classic car enthusiasts welcome to park in the west lot. Copperstate 1000 rally cars will be on the field for viewing and are scheduled to depart the stadium at 10 am this year.

There will be coffee and donuts available for sale in the west lot, merchandise for sale, and the stadium concession stands will be open. Proceeds benefit the Phoenix Art Museum.

Anniversary Celebration  
*One year open*

Saturday, March 4th  
 Free Entry 9AM - 1PM

Ribbon-Cutting Celebration at 9:30 AM

Thank you for an amazing first year in our new location!

4320 W. Thunderbird Rd.  
 Glendale, AZ 85306

**MARTIN AUTO MUSEUM**  
 And EVENT CENTER

**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  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85255

**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

## Bob Yoder

By Ed Crawford



Robert "Bob" W. Yoder passed away on February 8, 2023, at the age of 86. To say that Bob was a car enthusiast would be an understatement. Bob's passion for cars, especially Mercedes-Benz cars, was more than just owning and driving them, he knew the inner workings of them, the good ones to own and the bad ones to stay away from. Bob most importantly had an appreciation of how cars improved in their reliability, driving ability, and most importantly performance through the advancement of technology throughout his lifetime.

Bob was born in Reading, PA and spent most of his life in the Reading area. A graduate of General Motors Institute (Now Kettering University), Bob's life and career was always founded on vehicles in some way, shape, or form. From turning wrenches at AW Golden Cadillac in Reading, PA to building a successful regional truck leasing business, Bob was truly an entrepreneur. Bob sold his truck leasing business and moved to Arizona to "retire" in the early 1980's. Those that knew Bob came to understand that he never really retired. He was always on the go, tending to his cars (too many to list), repairing cars for family and friends, planning & attending Rallye's, and looking forward to the next weekly Happy Hour.

Bob is survived by his four children, Lori Jean (LJ), Robert (Rob), Aleta, and Melissa (Missy) and his longtime companion, Elaine Petrick. A memorial – celebration of life will take place at a later date and a communication will be sent to all MBCA Desert Stars members once the details become available.

### Volunteers Needed for running Events

We are looking for members to Volunteer to organize the Poker Run in 2023. The event is traditionally held late February, March or early April. 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)

In addition to the Poker Run we need your help in organizing other events. Anything from a casual lunch, dinner, or a scenic drive.

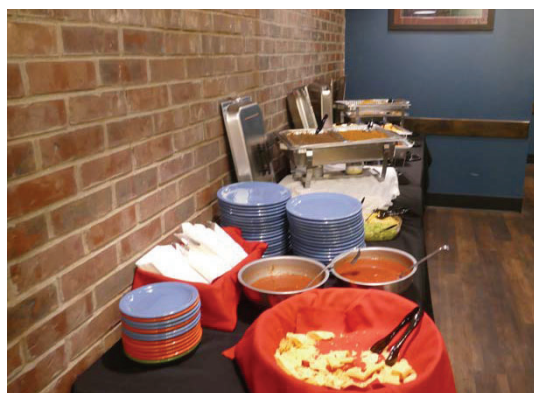
Thank you!



## Mercedes-Benz Enthusiast Dinner

By Jim Boyle

On Saturday evening January 28 the Desert Stars met at Macayo's restaurant in Scottsdale for the annual enthusiast dinner. It was a very good turnout almost 40 people who enjoyed the southwest Mexican food. There was a lovely exchange of information about our Mercedes ownerships and also reviewed upcoming events. A good time was had by all.



## Spring Picnic

Please register and pay by, March 11, 2023

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

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

Registration Fee is \$25 per person

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 (480) 268-9535.

## M B.E.A.T.

Please register and pay by, April 14, 2023

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

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

Will you be eating lunch at the Palace? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Registration Fee is \$25 per car

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 (480) 268-9535.

## Mecum Glendale 2023 March 28 -April 1

Mecum Auctions, the world's largest collector car auction company, returns to State Farm Stadium this March 28 - April 1 for Mecum Glendale 2023 with an estimated 2,000 American muscle cars, classics, Corvettes, trucks, exotics, Hot Rods, customs, and more to cross the auction block and a live TV broadcast on MotorTrendTV and MotorTrend+.

<https://www.mecum.com/collector-cars/how-to-sell/>



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## Sponsor Spotlight – Top Shop

We head to Central Phoenix to speak with **Top Shop**, located at 1545 E Indian School Rd (just west of the 51/ exit #3).

Top Shop is a family owned and operated business. It was founded in 1972 by Terry Tapp, and now co-owned and operated by Terry and his eldest son James.

**Q: Terry and James, what is the main products and services you offer at Top Shop?**

**A:** Our primary business is the repair or replacement of convertible tops and rear window sections, as well as interior upholstery. We basically help owners get their vehicles back to original condition, or any level of customization they desire.

**Q: Tell us a little about Top Shop's history**

**A:** (James) Top Shop has been serving the greater Phoenix area for over 40 years. It initially started out with my Dad working at his parents place fixing older cars, and eventually came to having his own shop. He moved to the current building around 1975. The main building has a unique past, as it was originally built to be a telephone switching station, where calls came in, and the operator would connect you to whom you were calling.

**Q: Are there any special qualifications that Top Shop has?**

**A:** We have over 80 combined years of experience in the auto upholstery / convertible top business. There are not many quality shops like ours. It takes years of doing this trade to be really good at it. Some shops may not take the time to do things right, but we try to provide customers the most authentic and original look as you can get. James has been with us full time since 2000, and has learned the trade well. Experience is the best way to learn how to do this.

**Q: Besides the tops and upholstery repairs and replacements we discussed earlier as your main focus, are there any other special products or services you provide?**

**A:** Yes. We can do frame repairs for convertible tops, replace headliners, and carpet as well as other interior repairs. Obviously, these take some planning with owner choices involved, so give us a call, and we can set up date and time to discuss any needs. We can help guide our customers through the restoration process, which can be overwhelming. We can also help if they are looking to locate or buy a car, as we have a lot of connections from years of doing business.

**Q: Is there anything that Mercedes Benz owners should consider when deciding on a project for their vehicle?**

**A:** We have the resources and means to get any car to near OEM as possible (meaning parts, color, patterns, and style). We hope people will consider our reputation in the valley and our years of quality craftsmanship when starting out their project.

**Q: Tell us more about yourselves, and what you like to do away from the shop?**

**A:** (James) Anything athletic! Dad was an extremist in his earlier years, and would organize skiing tours to the Rockies for the local ski clubs, scuba excursions, and mountain biking. We love to golf as well.

**Q: What are the most interesting Benz and non-Benz projects that you've done?**

**A:** (James) For me, probably the most interesting Mercedes so far is the 1971 280 SE that's in the shop right now. We are restoring the top and interior. It used to be used to be owned by Doris Day. For the non-Mercedes, probably the Rolls Royce that was in the shop a few weeks ago. It used to be owned by Grace Kelly, and the Prince of Monaco.

**Q: What are your business hours?**

**A:** We are open Monday thru Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm and Friday 8am to noon.

**Q: Anything else you want our MBCA members to know?**

**A:** Cost effective seat repairs are available, such as replacing worn panels, and dyeing as needed to get near perfect color match. Full carpet kit replacements are available. We are ready to help no matter the size of the project, and can service all makes, foreign and domestic. Whether the vehicle is old and new, or if the request is for custom or stock repairs / replacement, we can help. Just give us a call.

Top Shop can be reached at 602-277-6949, or email them at [tapper20@hotmail.com](mailto:tapper20@hotmail.com). Be sure to check them out on the web at <http://aztopshop.com>, or alternately on Facebook or Yelp!



SL interior and top that was at the Vegas Sema show this year



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# Mercedes Benz Repair

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Scottsdale European Service is your dealership alternative for Mercedes Benz repair and maintenance in the Scottsdale area. We offer you dealer-level service at a price that is affordable. Our goal is to be the best independent Mercedes Benz service and repair shop in the valley. With over 70 years of combined Mercedes Benz dealership experience and factory diagnostic equipment you can trust us to service and repair your Mercedes Benz right the first time!

Our services include, but are not limited to Mercedes Benz scheduled maintenance, A service, B service, oil changes, electrical issues, windshields, tint, paint repair and detailing. We can handle pretty much anything you need for your Mercedes Benz at a fraction of the cost compared to the dealership. We use Factory recommended fluids and OEM parts to keep your Mercedes Benz operation as you would expect and will not void your warranty.

With your busy schedule let's face it getting your car into the shop can be a hassle, that's why we offer a pick up and delivery service from your home or place of business to make it even easier to take care of your Mercedes Benz! Schedule online or give us a call you won't be disappointed!

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2023 CALENDAR			
<b>R1 BAHRAIN</b> 03-05 MAR   BAKHIR	<b>R13 BELGIUM</b> 28-30 JUL   SPA-FRANCOCHAMPS	<b>R2 SAUDI ARABIA</b> 17-19 MAR   JEDDAH	<b>R14 NETHERLANDS</b> 25-27 AUG   ZANDVOORT
<b>R3 AUSTRALIA</b> 31 MAR - 02 APR   MELBOURNE	<b>R15 ITALY</b> 01-03 SEP   MONZA	<b>R4 AZERBAIJAN</b> 28-30 APR   BAKU	<b>R16 SINGAPORE</b> 15-17 SEP   MARINA BAY
<b>R5 MIAMI</b> 05-07 MAY   MIAMI	<b>R17 JAPAN</b> 23-24 SEP   SUZUKA	<b>R6 EMILIA ROMAGNA</b> 19-21 MAY   IMOLA	<b>R18 QATAR</b> 06-08 OCT   LUSAIL
<b>R7 MONACO</b> 26-28 MAY   MONACO	<b>R19 UNITED STATES</b> 20-22 OCT   AUSTIN	<b>R8 SPAIN</b> 02-04 JUN   CATALUNYA	<b>R20 MEXICO</b> 27-29 OCT   MEXICO CITY
<b>R9 CANADA</b> 16-18 JUN   MONTREAL	<b>R21 BRAZIL</b> 03-05 NOV   SAO PAULO	<b>R10 AUSTRIA</b> 30 JUN - 02 JUL   SPIELBERG	<b>R22 LAS VEGAS</b> 16-18 NOV   LAS VEGAS
<b>R11 GREAT BRITAIN</b> 07-09 JUL   SILVERSTONE	<b>R23 ABU DHABI</b> 24-26 NOV   YAS MARINA	<b>R12 HUNGARY</b> 21-23 JUL   BUDAPEST	



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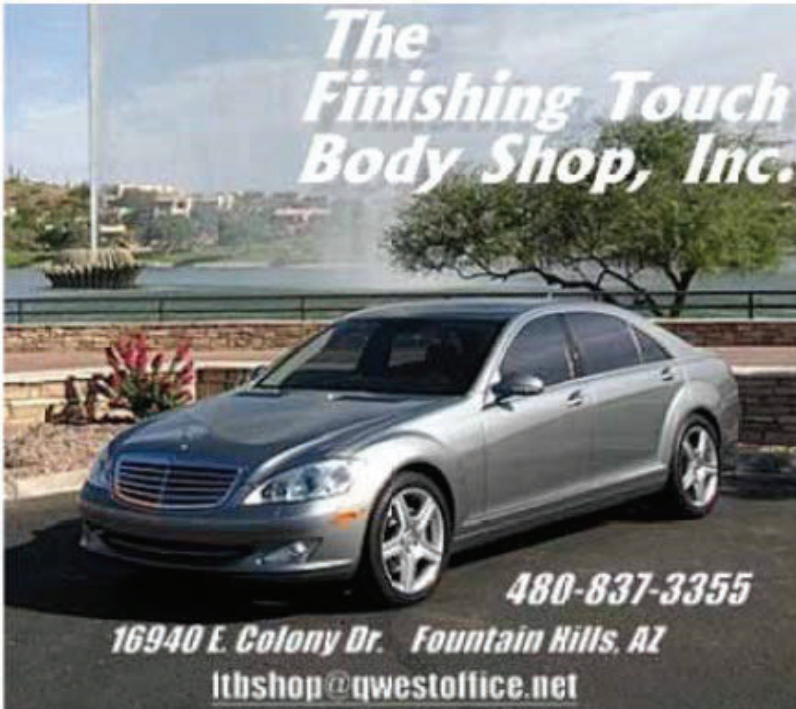
The club welcomes inquiries from businesses or members who would like to advertise their goods or services to an influential and discriminating group of purchasers. If you know of a business you think should be in this periodical and would like me to try to call on them, please, just let me know.

Call Ron Borino at 602-550-9939 for information





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)

**March** – a visit to the Franklin Museum

**April** – Davis Monthan Car Show April 15

**May** – winery tour to Sonoita

**June** – tour to Mt. Lemmon

**July** – tour to Prescott with Desert Stars Club

**October** -Tombstone and Bisbee

**November** - Scavenger Hunt/Murals

**December** – Christmas party



Keep your address updated with the  
 MBCA National Business Office at  
 (800) 637-2360  
 Online at <http://mbca.org>

**Update your email address with The National Business Office**  
 Contact our Membership Chair, Debbie Ichiyama, at 480-268-9535 or [dichiyama@me.com](mailto:dichiyama@me.com)

## SAVE THESE DATES

March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Spring Picnic
TBD		Mercedes Benz Classic Center
April 22-23	Sat-Sun	M- B.E.A.T
May 6	Sat	Annual Meeting/Breakfast
July TBD		Prescott with the Chapparral Section
Fall TBD		Havasupai
Dec 10	Sun	Holiday Party

**Please see page 16 for a list of events by the Chapparral (Tucson) Section.**

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