



Sept -Oct 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 [Havasupai Road Rallye Mercedes Benz GROUP CODE: 2309HAVASU](#)** The rate is \$179/night, plus taxes & fees. But there's only 20 rooms available until September 15th, so don't delay!

You don't want to miss this amazing weekend! Registration Form on is on page 13.

Hope to see you there!

Kris & Kevin

President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

Traditionally, fall is the season of back to school, Halloween, new shows on television and new cars in dealer's showrooms. Kids are already back to school, the candy is already on sale in the stores, there's a writers and actors strike still going on, but Mercedes-Benz is already lining up one of its biggest model release season for quite a while. The newly designed models range from the electric EQB electric SUV, a brand new E-Class W214 on up to a 2+2 seat AMG GT with all wheel drive. The EQB EV is nearly indistinguishable from the gasoline powered GLB and has an estimated range of 250 miles per charge, depending on which of three models is selected.

An all new E-Class, the W214 chassis, will debut next year in 2024 and will be slightly larger than the current model. The biggest change is in trunk space, going from 13.1 cubic feet to 19 cubic feet of storage space. Every version of the new E-Class will be a hybrid, whether you go with the 255 horsepower, 295 pound-foot inline four E350 4Matic or the 375 hp, 369 lb-ft E450 4Matic.

AMG has worked its magic on its first all electric SUV, the AMG EQE. Aside from the usual AMG styling, it will be twice as fast from 0-60 as the regular Mercedes EQE, 3.4 seconds.

At the extreme end of the new lineup, the AMG GT becomes almost a family car. Still two doors, but with an available collapsible rear jump seat like the SL owners have. Standard all wheel drive for either the twin turbo V-8 with 469 bhp GT55 or 577 bhp for the GT63. It's nearly a practical car. Check out the new models at the Valley's five dealerships.



Debbie



Sept - Oct 2023

Volume 59 Number 5

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Welcome our new Members!

June

- Mark Charpentier
- Tom Clements
- Christopher Endras
- James Reynolds
- David Verill

July

- Jeanna Corley
- John Plowman

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Holiday Party Dec 10, 2023



The holidays will be here before we know it. Clear the 10th of December for the Desert Stars Annual Holiday Party - with the always-important Member Anniversary recognition celebration. It is time to reflect on 2023 as we spend time with friends and fellow members catch up and enjoy the spirit of the holidays.

The event will be at the Grayhawk Golf Club in the Fairway House. There will be a no-host bar. We are changing things up a bit and this year we will be serving a festive brunch. Included in the brunch will be an omelet station, beef medallions and so much more. The food at Grayhawk Golf Club never disappoints.

Anniversary celebrants must attend to receive your recognition pins (or you need a *really* good excuse for not being there!) So, we want to see you! List of anniversary recipients can be found on page 6.

Oh, don't forget we are collecting for Toys for Tots so please bring an un-wrapped gift! Make this holiday season a special one by joining your friends in the Desert Stars Mercedes-Benz club.

Festivities will begin at noon. Registration form is on page 13.

Debbie Ichiyama

An exciting change will be the **Holiday Gift Exchange** (*Emphasis on Exchange*)

We are planning a fun and engaging enhancement to the traditional "holiday gifting" that has taken place during past annual Desert Stars holiday parties. New for this year is a "Holiday Gift Exchange" event. This event will be exciting for both participants and guests. If you would like to participate, all you need to do is bring a wrapped gift with a \$25 - \$30 value. You can participate as a couple or individually it is completely up to you. The gift can be something Mercedes Benz themed, automotive themed, holiday themed, or even be a bottle of wine or spirits. It is your choice on what you wish to bring as a gift. Be sure the gift is wrapped when you come to the party to be eligible to participate! This holiday gift "*exchange*" makes for some holiday excitement and cheer. Look forward to sharing more details at the event and seeing everyone!

Ed Crawford

FCCS Car Show

The car show will be on the campus of First Christian Church Scottsdale, 7405 E. McDonald Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. The car show will be one part of their Fall Festival, so there will be lots of other activities going on besides the car show. All of it is a fundraiser for those in need of food, clothing, and shelter.

If interested please contact Scott Hawks at 317-797-9684

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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 or Karen Manser nspinaz@gmail.com
Events can be anything from a casual lunch, dinner, or a scenic drive.

Thank you!



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Exciting News

The Poker Run will be returning.

Watch for updates in future Newsletters and by email.



Anniversary Recipients

65 Years

J. Blakeslee

40 Years

David Neal

35 Years

Fred Lewis

30 Years

Holger Martin

25 Years

James Boyle
Erika Cramer
Steven Jensen
Sue Larsen
Daniel Thomas
Michael Weinhart

20 Years

Alex Glade
Charles Johnston
Charles Moehring
Henry Muranko
George Orndorff
Jeff Smith
Dan Withers

15 Years

Donna Bryson
Alexander Curtis
Sandra Dunn
Lawrence Foster
David Lindau
Linda Meece
Robert Mosley
Billy Rhinehart
Richard Schulte
Richard Sparanese
Stuart Thorn

10 Years

Steven Angle
Larry Bryson
Charles Dickens
William Dobransky
Eddie Fuentes
Robert Kelly
Kim Kunasek
Michael McBride
William Pettus
Judith Wetta
Frank Wolz
Daniel Wood

5 Years

Bob Agra
Harry Cashwell
Millie De Roeck
Joseph DeVito
Paul Hamra
John Rowland
West Kenyon
Michael Metts
John Polich
Anthony Rojas
Jan Slor
Ted Zemper

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The complex block contains two photographs of modern buildings. The top photograph shows a large, multi-story building with a prominent glass facade and the word 'Integer' on the roof. The bottom photograph shows a smaller, single-story building with a modern architectural style, featuring large windows and a central entrance.



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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

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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

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

The Paddock at the Epicenter – Cars & Coffee

7:30 – 11 am Every 4th Sunday beginning Oct 29th

3510 E Ray Rd

Gilbert, AZ 85296

Sponsor Spotlight – Raintree Apothecary

Raintree Apothecary, 9260 E. Raintree Dr. Suite 150, Scottsdale AZ 85260, located just east of the 101 on 92nd St. and Raintree Dr.

Raintree Apothecary is a compounding pharmacy owned and operated by Erin Butler, PharmD, RPh. She opened the business in 2017.



Q: Erin, can you tell us about Raintree Apothecary and the services you offer?

A: (Erin) We are a full-service compounding pharmacy. We offer many of the same services you might find at a large chain pharmacy, but our primary focus is medication compounding. Simply put, compounding is the art of making the medication for a specific patient instead of dispensing a mass-produced trade product. We specialize in therapies that help patients achieve health naturally.

Q. What is the advantage to the patient of a custom-made medication?

A: There are several reasons an individual might need a custom medication. Every person is different and the “one size fits all” mentality of commercial medications is not for everyone. Some individuals cannot swallow medication therefore we might provide a liquid or topical formulation of the same medication. People can have allergies or intolerances to inactive ingredients in commercial medications. In those cases, we use the raw ingredients to make a new dosage form with as little additives as possible. There may be a shortage of medication, the medication is no longer being made, or sometimes medication is not offered commercially. In some cases, patients are on medications in which they have developed a tolerance and need smaller dosage forms to titrate down and to discontinue the medication.

Q. What type of compounded medications do you offer at Raintree Apothecary?

A. We offer hormone replacement therapy for women and men, thyroid replacement, specialized skin care for anti-aging acne, and scars, veterinary medication, and topical pain alternatives to oral medication just to name a few. We make medications into several types of dosage forms such as lozenges, creams, suppositories, liquids, capsules, and dissolvable tablets.

Q: What types of specialized equipment is needed to compound medication?

A: We make sure every medication is processed in a way that preserves the medication potency and is thoroughly mixed to ensure a homogenous product. This requires specialized lab equipment to weigh, heat, mix and prepare the products. The process also requires the lab itself to be specialized to maintain cleanliness and avoid cross contamination of products.

Q: What type of knowledge is needed to compound?

A: Compounding is becoming a lost art. We have come a long way from the old apothecaries and pharmacies that would compound most of the medication that was dispensed. These days compounding is relegated to one course in pharmacy school. Most compounding pharmacists have several years of

experience learning this niche of pharmacy. As a compounding pharmacist, we are taking a medication and turning it into something that has not been done before. Not only do we need to ensure potency and efficacy, above all we need to make a safe product. Before we start changing a medication, we must look at all its known properties to best determine if what we are doing to it will yield a usable product. For instance, we must ask if the product we are making will absorb properly, what kind of temperature or environment can it tolerate, what is the size of the molecule? This requires knowledge of the science of compounding but also creativity.

Q: What are your main products at Raintree Apothecary?

A: We specialize in hormone replacement therapy for men and women. Our pharmacists have over 40 years combined experience in compounding, and all of them specialize in hormone therapy. We assist patients whose hormone levels have declined due to aging or injury by making specific combinations of bio-identical hormone preparations designed to restore declining hormone levels. Hormones help us maintain our youthfulness inside and outside the body. Our hormone medications are made with bio-identical hormones, which mean they are structurally identical to hormones that are produced by the human body. Hormone replacement has many positive effects on mood, concentration, heart, bones, and skin, as well as the health of your internal organs.

Q: What are your business hours?

A: We are open Monday through Friday 9am to 6pm and closed for lunch from 12-1pm daily.

Q: Anything else you want our MBCA members to know about Raintree Apothecary?

A: We take our job very seriously, and patients always come first. We adhere to rigorous state and federal standards.

Raintree Apothecary can be reached at 480-912-5959, or by email at info@raintreerx.net. Be sure to also check them out on the web at <http://www.raintreerx.net>, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Yelp](#).



Waiting Area



Lab

Arizona Concours date set for January 21, 2024

By Chuck Stanford Jr.

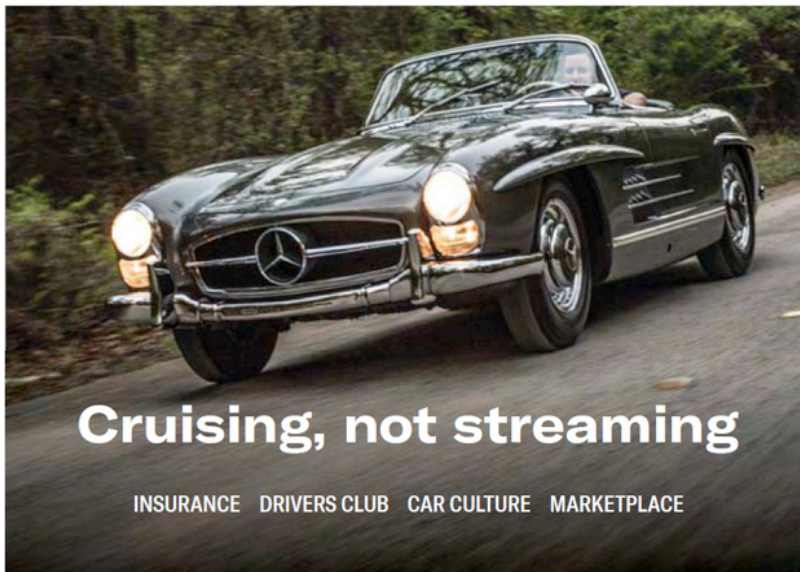
“The Art of Automotive Design” has been chosen as the theme for the next Arizona Concours d’Elegance, set for January 21, 2024, at the newly renovated Scottsdale Civic Center, where a splendid array of 100 rare and historic automobiles will be displayed in and around the grounds of the Center.

The sixth edition of the Arizona Concours, and the second year at the lovely Scottsdale locale, the event will focus on some of the world’s most superb examples of the art of coachbuilding and car design, shown in the luxury atmosphere of a stylish garden party and should not be missed.

The Concours is a professionally judged and curated event of vehicles that are rarely seen dream cars and highly valued collector items, examples that impress and excite not only car lovers but anyone who appreciates the beauty of expressive design. The judged vehicles range from antiques from the dawn of motoring through pre-war classics, sports and competition cars, and modern-day exotics.

Previously held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix, the Arizona Concours at the Scottsdale Civic Center is presented in partnership with Scottsdale Arts, the organization responsible for multi-disciplinary artistic services in the city. Proceeds from the event benefit local artists and the arts community.

For information on vehicle submissions and volunteers, go to ArizonaConcours.com



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Tino Ferrulli



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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) with any questions you may have, or simply watch this space to get more information.



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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

Holiday Party

Please register and pay by Dec 1, 2023

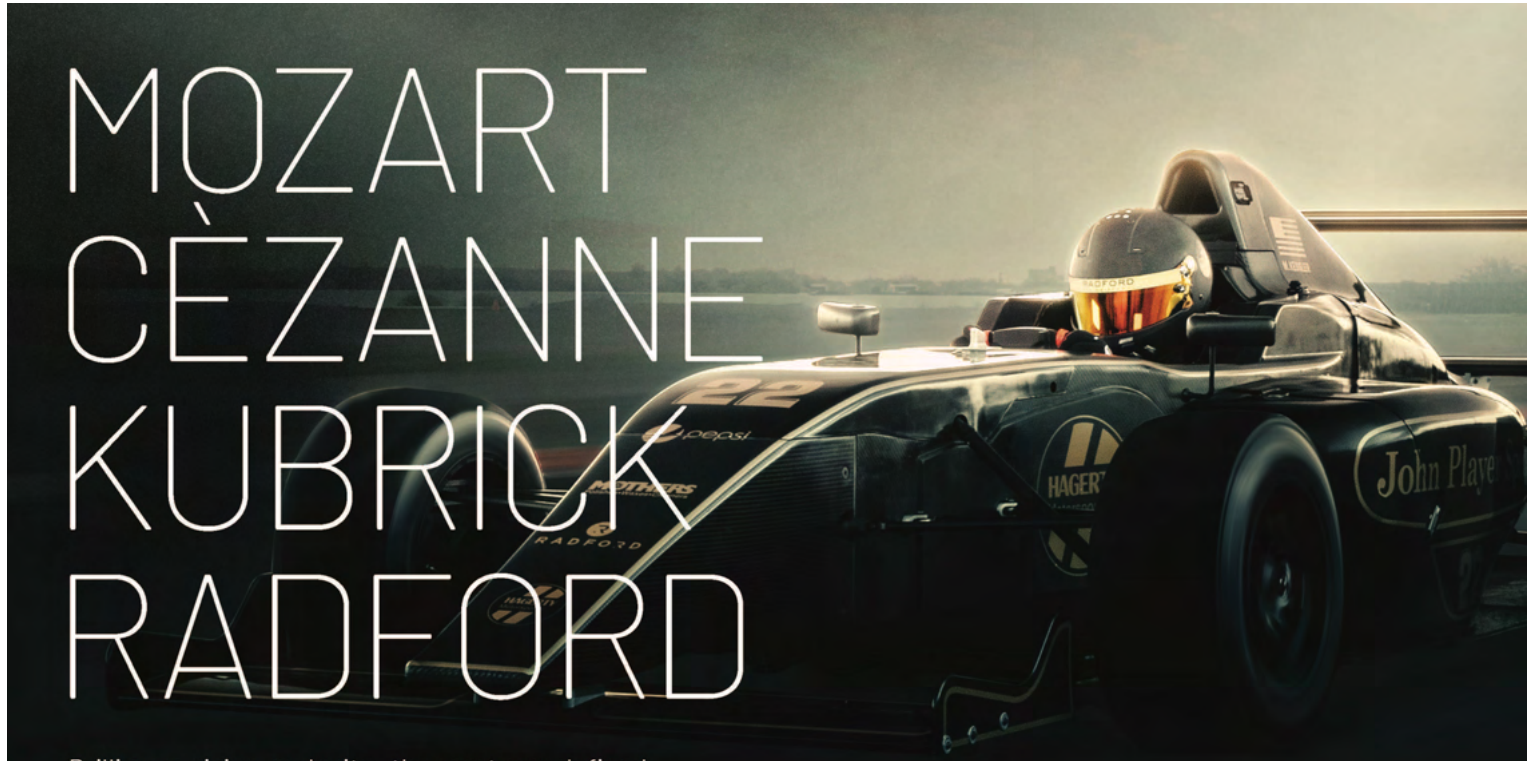
Name(s) Registering: _____ Number Attending: _____

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

Registration Fee is \$75 per person.

Make your check payable to: **MBCA Desert Stars**; and mail to:
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You never know who you will meet....

By Harman Cadis

On the road trip to San Diego with some fellow Parrot Heads to see Jimmy Buffet in May we stopped at Date Land for some EV juice for our friend's VW ID.4 EV..(sorry not MB) and Date Shakes for us..

There we met a MB travelling EV road show of EVs going cross country from dealer to dealer with the newest MB EVs. At each dealer they let the owners and associates autograph the EQS along the way. During their trip they rotated travelers so as many execs from Atlanta could participate. We met Frank Dierl VP Network Development & Special Projects and his team along with the HQ's HR execs.

Now we know which one we will buy in a couple of years. Unfortunately, they did not offer us a discount!

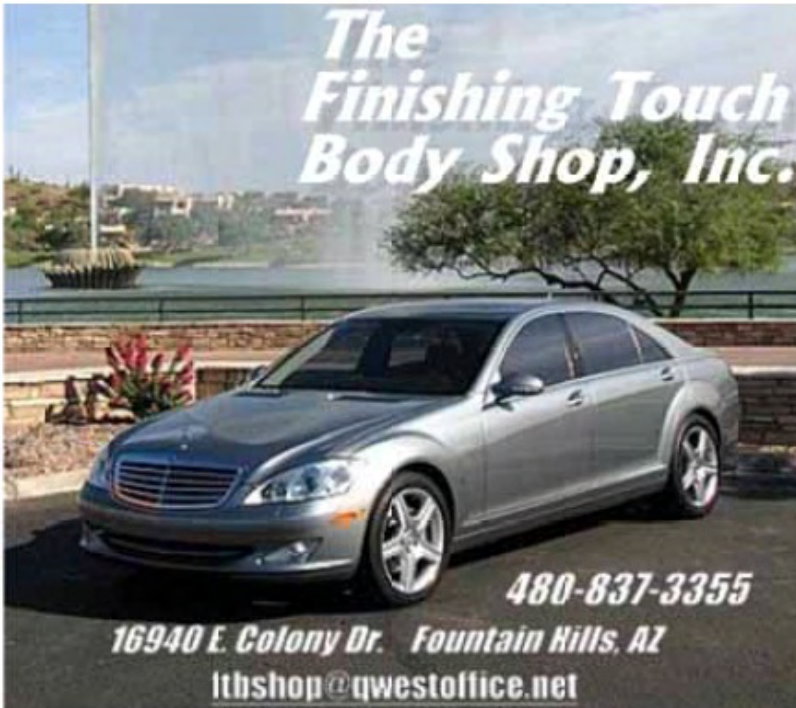
You never know who you will meet out on the road.



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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



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

October 11– Star Night dinner

December – Christmas party

Watch for updates via email

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 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

SAVE THESE DATES

Sept 29 – Oct 1	Fri - Sun	Havasupai
Dec 10	Sun	Holiday Party
Dec - TBD	Desert Botanical Garden - Las Noches de las Luminarias	
Jan 28	Sun	MB Enthusiasts Dinner

Please see page 18 for a list of events by the Chaparral (Tucson) Section.

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Sept - Oct 2023