

# 2024 M-B.E.A.T.

By John Hutchison & Mark Ichiyama

If, "*Country Roads, take me home*" in the John Denver song, "*to the place I belong*" has any meaning to you, then maybe this event will ring a bell! Come with us in April and escape the city bustle! Join fellow members on a memorable drive through Morristown, Wickenburg, Congress, Yarnell and other unfamiliar town names to Prescott, Jerome, Cottonwood, Sedona and finally Flagstaff!! This will give you the opportunity to blow the cobwebs out of your road car which has been in the garage for too many months.

We are setting up our 2024 events and would like to announce that the M-B.E.A.T., the Mercedes British European Auto Tour is being planned for the weekend of April 20-21, the weekend after you have hopefully settled your tax bill and maybe pulled more fund\$ back into your checkbook!

We will be gathering at First Watch Tramanto, 34948 N. North Valley Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85086 at 7:00am on Saturday, April 20, 2024, for breakfast. The restaurant is located in the shopping center at the NW corner of Interstate 17 and Carefree Highway. After breakfast, a driver's meeting will be held around 8:30 during which road safety rules, a route map and lunch location details will be distributed.

Our exact route will be determined shortly after we have had a chance to check the roads and to make sure there are no travel hazards. As in the past, all roads on which we travel will be paved so you don't have to worry about rock chips or other road problems. But rather than being on an Interstate Highway, you will have the opportunity to view the beauty of the back roads and small towns that have little if any traffic.

Lunch will be in Prescott at The Palace Restaurant and Saloon. After lunch you will have the opportunity to wander the shops around Courthouse Square along Whiskey Row and Gurley Street before heading further Northbound into the glorious wilderness of our State.

The cost of the event is \$25 per person for members and \$30 per person for non-members.

The club has negotiated a special room rate of \$189.00 (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 direct at 1-800-352-4386 and mention that you would like the special Desert Stars Mercedes room rate for Saturday evening, April 20, 2024. This special room rate and room availability can be guaranteed ONLY through March 8, 2024, so call right away if you are planning to register for the event.

Registration form is on page 10

## **President's Message**

By Debbie Ichiyama

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Spring is almost here. Time to take out our cars for a drive and for those of you who have convertibles put the tops down and enjoy our beautiful spring weather.

We have a couple driving events planned, the M-BEAT in April and for the fall, plans are underway for the Havasupai. Watch for info on the Poker Run in the Newsletter or via emails.

Please remember we are always looking for new ideas for events. If you have any, please share them or if you would like to get involved in planning or help run an event please reach out to Karen Manser or myself.

Hole



## The StarDust

## March - April 2024 Volume 60 Number 2

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Club Email: desertstars@desertstars.club

## Welcome our new Members!

December

<u>January</u>

**Crystal Loveless** 

Farasat Chaudhry

"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:

Brynn Burton David Cesal Carey Hobson John Hutchison John Truttman (480) 216-3708 (858) 736-5985 (480) 455-9201 (530) 304-2965 (480) 695-2591

#### Karen Manser **Membership:** Carey Hobson **Publicity/Webmaster:** Mark Ichiyama **Newsletter Advertising:** Ron Borino **Newsletter Editor:** Debbie Ichiyama

Chairs:

Activities & Events:

SW Regional Director: Ron Borino (602) 550-9939

March – April 2024

## Cars and Coffee

By Ron Borino

Desert Stars has a cars and coffee event planned for March 30<sup>th</sup> with our host again being North Scottsdale Mercedes Benz. The event will begin at 9:00 and go through 11:00. At 11:00 we will head out for a drive to Tortilla Flats for lunch. Our last cars and coffee event brought out well over 50 cars and we drove to Bartlet lake for lunch. Don't miss this event to meet other Desert Stars members and Mercedes Enthusiasts from around the valley. There is no charge to attend, coffee and snacks will be provided. The drive and lunch at Tortilla Flat however is on your own. North Scottsdale Mercedes Benz is one of the Desert Stars sponsors and is located at 18530 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ.

For those not familiar with Tortilla Flat it is located at 1 MainStreet, Tortilla Flat, AZ 85109 and their web address is<u>https://www.tortillaflataz.com</u> This location is about 90 minutes or 60 miles from the dealership.

RSVP to advertising@desertstars.com by March 23 if you will be joining us at Tortilla Flat





March – April 2024

## **Annual Meeting**

By Debbie Ichiyama

Saturday May 4th

The meeting will be held at the Orange Tree Golf Resort, (10651 N 56<sup>th</sup> St. Phoenix AZ 85254) on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. We will be paying by separate checks. The ballots and information will be brought to you.

Please contact Debbie at <u>dichiyama@me.com</u> or Karen at 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 <u>desertstars@desertstars.club</u> and we will send you a ballot.

The slate of officers and directors are below.

# Annual Meeting Slate of Officers and Directors

## **Candidate Slate for Officers**

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

## Candidate Slate for Class of 2027

Carey Hobson Michael Welton

## Cruises

By Ron Borino

Several of your Desert Stars in 2025 are planning a couple cruises that some of you may have an interest in. We have always enjoyed travel with others. As follows we have travel booked on Princess Cruises through our advertiser Passport Travel to the following locations:

March 7, 2025 32-day Andes & Cape Horn Grand Adventure on the Sapphire Princess. Voyage #UH506A

### AND

October 21, 2025 26 days Mediterranean Cruise with trans-Atlantic crossing on the Sun Princess. Voyage #U540A

Currently there are 3 couples signed up for these two adventures. If you have any interest, please contact Robin Spreranza at Passport Travel for details and cost information. Visit Princess Cruises at <a href="https://www.princess.com/">https://www.princess.com/</a> for more information on the cruise line and trip details. I am happy to visit with you too if you call me at 602-550-9939.

This is not a club event or affiliated with the Desert Stars. Your itinerary, embarkation, disembarkation, and excursions are strictly your own.





PASSPORT TRAVEL 42189 W Miller LN Maricopa, AZ 85138

480.951.2813 x1

Robin Speranza Travel Specialist

MVT / YTC Affiliate / Virtuoso passporttravel@yahoo.com

# MB Enthusiasts Diner

By Jim Boyle

The 2024 Arizona Auction Week ended on January 28<sup>th</sup> and the Mercedes- Benz Desert stars celebrated with our annual enthusiasts Dinner. Twenty-nine Desert Star Enthusiast's attended the Celebration of another great auction week! Auction results included:

<u>1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing Coupe</u> sold for \$3,410,000 (Barrett-Jackson), <u>1937 Mercedes-Benz 540K Cabriolet</u> sold for \$2,420,000 (Barrett-Jackson), <u>1938 Mercedes-Benz 540K Sindelfingen Cabriolet B</u> sold for \$1,545,000 (RM Sotheby's), <u>1961 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Roadster</u> sold for \$1,215,000, (Worldwide), <u>1962 Mercedes-Benz 190SL Convertible</u> sold for \$184,800, (BONHAMS).

Drinks and lively conversation were followed by a Ling and Louie's appetizer tower and a choice of entrees from their award winning Asian fusion menu.

After dessert, an enjoyable dining delight, we were informed and entertained by our guest speakers John Kraman, David Morten, and Brett Baugh, all from Mecum auto auctions. John happily informed us that auto prices for Mercedes were on the rise.

The Mecum auction is scheduled for Arizona in March and Desert Stars members can save half off when selling a car next month by mentioning they are a member of the Mercedes Benz Club.

After the speakers and a Q&A, the party dispersed and a lovely evening came to an end.

Thank you to Ron Borino, Our Reginal Director, for securing our speakers.



John Kraman TV Commentator for Mecum on Motor Trend TV



David Morton Manager of Communications and Event Marketing





# **Sponsor Spotlight**

In this edition of Sponsor Spotlight, we take at "home inspection" with Joseph Thompson of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Arizona Properties, one of MBCA Desert Stars' non-automotive advertisers. Joseph's office is located just north of the valley at 3434 W. Anthem Way, Suite#112, Anthem, AZ 85086.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices is the real estate division of the Warren Buffett conglomerate. Joseph is an Associate Broker and a seasoned veteran among his peers in the Phoenix area. He has been working in the industry for over thirty years in various 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 "spellchecker". They have been married for 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 an 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 the largescale, residential home sales market began to develop. My move over to Beazer Homes as a sales manager gave me the opportunity to later become their marketing director and thereafter serve as company president. I was responsible for having roughly 14,500 homes built 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 leisure time.

A: In college, I worked for a law office in downtown Phoenix. At that time the only lunchtime place my budget allowed was a nearby Jack-in-the-Box. Joseph worked the window there, and the rest is history. Since we both are car enthusiasts, especially classic cars, we enjoy car shows. We also are involved in volunteer ministry, and love to travel. Joseph served on the Board of Overseers for the Phoenix Symphony, helping to promote the symphony and its events. But we especially enjoy what we call "Marvelous Monday", when some of our grandchildren spend time with us. It's a special time for all of us!

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

A: Fran owned a '72 SE280 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 & 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 anyone thinking about selling or purchasing a home to look at my happy clients on Zillow.com.Then call me at (602) 206-0692 to chat, or email: <u>jthompson241@cox.net</u>

My homepage is josephthompson.bhhsaz.com



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## The StarDust

### Local Car Culture

## Scuderia Southwest-monthly Scottsdale Motorsports Gathering

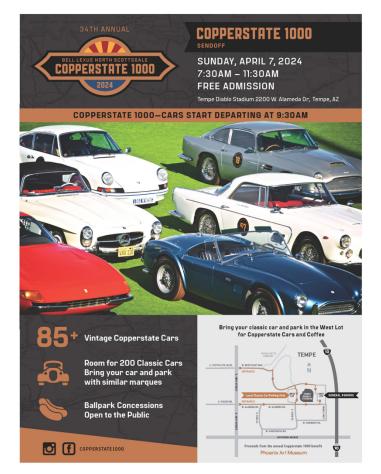
7:00 - 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every month.

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





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## Page 10

M.B.E.A.T.				
Please register and pay by April 12, 2024				
Name(s)	Registering: Number Attending:	Number Attending:		
	Day/ Night Email Address:No Will you be eating lunch at the Palace?YesNo Registration Fee is \$25 per person members and \$30 per person non-members Make your check payable to: <b>MBCA Desert Stars</b> ; 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			
Registration in thi	s event requires signing the clubs Standard Release and Wavier of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement the day of the event.			

# For Sale

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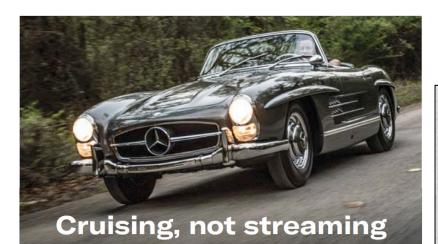


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## Your Company Could Be Here

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





# Thinking of Visiting Germany?

By Chuck Stanford, Jr

Of all the benefits your MBCA membership brings, certainly one of the most enticing is the opportunity to visit Germany and the home of all things bearing the three-pointed STAR! For many years groups of 12-25 Members have enjoyed week-long tours of the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Suttfart and Classic Center at Fellbach, the expansive assembly plant at Sindelfingen, the AMG engine shop in Affalternach and various Mercedes-Benz tuners, restorers, and other historical sites. Enthusiast guides make sure there really is something for everyone, with lodging and authentic German cuisine absolutely first class!

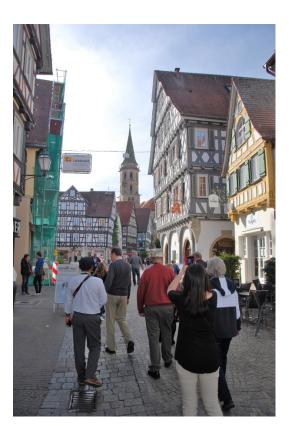
Many travelers chose to extend their stay in Europe with an accompany River Cruse or side trip elsewhere in Germany or Europe. And a new option is enthusiast driving tours in Germany, France or Italy with vintage Mercedes-Benz SL roadsters,

The September 2023 trip hosting 25 members just returned with great tales of fun and excitement and two trips are planned for 2024 – June 3-9 and September 16-22, Desert Stars members Chuck and Ava Stanford will be hosting the June trip.

These are very worthwhile tours and are an excellent benefit and value for Club members. They also make wonderful Holiday gifts for your favorite Mercedes-Benz enthusiast. Or for yourself. Watch for details in the November/December STAR or contact Chuck Stanford at 602-549-4789 for more details.

Hope to see you in Stuttgart in 2024!





# Mercedes-Benz

of North Scottsdale

# New 2023 Mercedes-Benz EQB 300 4MATIC<sup>®</sup> SUV

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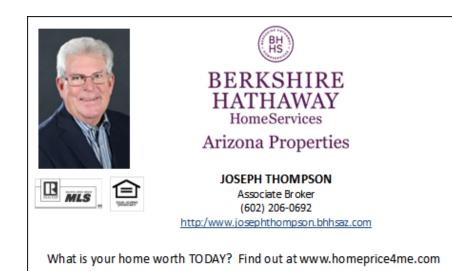


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By Ron Borino

Desert Stars did you know that one of the national organizations premier advertisers will be holding an auction again this year in the Valley of the Sun? Mecum Auctions will be at the Arizona Cardinals Stadium from Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. There are general admission passes available at Mecum's website.

For those members interested in buying or selling a vehicle there is a **50% discount code** for MBCA members which is good for the Standard Bidder and Annual Bidder registration at Mecum Auctions. This includes admission for the Bidder and one Guest for each auction day. The promotional code for MBCA members to receive the discount on the bidder registrations is available on the MBCA website.

General admission tickets are \$30.00 per person. For more information and auction details, please see the link below. Use Promo code 24MBCACLUB for members to receive your discount when you buy your passes.

https://www.mecum.com/auctions/glendale-2024/

This is always a fun event so be sure to attend.



Keep your address updated with the MBCA National Business Office at 719-633-6427 Online at http://mbca.org

Update your email address with The National Business Office Contact our National at 719-633-6427

# **SAVE THESE DATES**

March 5 – 9	Tues – Sat	Mecum Auction
March 30	Sat	Cars & Coffee
April 20-21	Sat – Sun	MBEAT
May 4th	Sat	Annual Meeting
TBD		Poker Run
TBD	Sat	Octoberfest
TBD	Fall 2024	Havasupai
Dec 8	Sun	Holiday Party

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