



Jan – Feb 2024

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

MB Enthusiasts Dinner

Jim Boyle

Greeting Mercedes enthusiasts,

Time to plan on joining us for our after the Auctions Enthusiast's Dinner!

January 28, 2024 5 to 9 PM Ling & Louie's 9397 East Shea Blvd. Suite 125 Scottsdale

Includes appetizers, entrée selections off a menu designed for us and dessert.
There will be a cash bar offering Happy Hour prices.

Cost is \$50 per person. Please register by Jan 14th Registration form on page 10.



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.

Continued on page 3

President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

The Desert Stars are very fortunate to have awesome members and volunteers who work very hard to make the club the success it is. However, we need your help. I encourage everyone to volunteer, either by helping and getting involved in future events, telling us about an idea you have for a Star Night restaurant, volunteering to help at an event or even expressing interest for a position on our volunteer board of directors. We would like everyone to be involved in your club in order to continue to grow and prosper. Working together can bring in new ideas and demonstrate to new members that everyone is part of the team. Be a part of our future.

Please contact either myself or Karen Manser if you would like to help or just have questions about what is involved. Send inquiries to desertstars@desertstars.club.

Stay safe and I hope to see you all in 2024.




Jan – Feb 2024

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Newsletter Editor:

Debbie Ichiyama

• Email StarDustMBCA@gmail.com

Contributing Credits for this Issue:

Ron Borino
Jim Boyle
Ed & Annette Crawford
John Hutchison
Debbie Ichiyama
Chuck Stanford Jr

Photography Credits for this issue:

@mercedes_of_az
Kaleb Boren Mercedes-Benz of North Scottsdale
Ron Borino
Ed Crawford
John Hutchison
Mark Ichiyama

Activities & Events:

Karen Manser

• Email nspinaz@gmail.com

Advertising:

Ron Borino

• Email advertising@desertstars.club

Website: <https://desertstars.mbca.org/>

Facebook: [DesertStarsMBCA](https://www.facebook.com/DesertStarsMBCA)

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

Twitter: [@MBCADesertStars](https://twitter.com/MBCADesertStars) Club Email: desertstars@desertstars.club



Welcome our new Members!

October

Robert Garson
Logan Riddles

November

Rich Bottarini
Matthew Green
Frances Miller
Elena Ross
Jim Voice
Bridget Wright

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

Desert Stars Section Officers and Board Members

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

SW Regional Director:

Ron Borino (602) 550-9939

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Mark Ichiyama

Newsletter Advertising:

Ron Borino

Newsletter Editor:

Debbie Ichiyama

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.

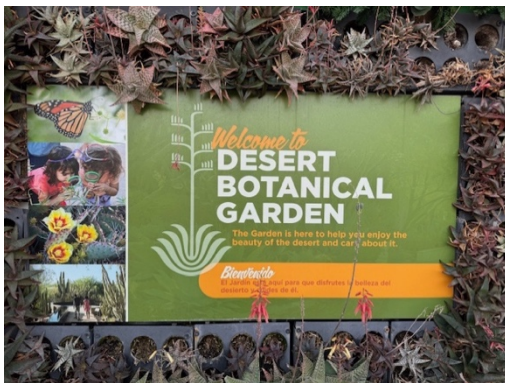
The club has negotiated a special room rate of \$189.00 (plus tax) for a maximum of 10 standard rooms with either two queen beds or one king bed at Little America in Flagstaff. If you plan on participating in this event and staying over in Flagstaff for the evening, you should make reservations NOW for 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 on page 10.

A Luminating Evening Under the Stars

On December 2nd Mercedes Benz Desert Stars members & guests gathered under the stars at the Desert Botanical Gardens for a wonderful evening strolling through luminaria-lit trails, filled with holiday lights, and musical performances. "Mother Nature" was on our side with clear skies and cool temperatures prevailed once the sunset over the western sky. For those that missed this year's event, don't fret, as we hope to make this an annual event going forward!

Wishing You Happy Holidays, *Ed & Annette Crawford – Holiday Planners*



Holiday Carolers!



The Attendees

Cars & Coffee Nov 4th

By Ron Borino

Saturday morning November 4th the Desert Stars section in conjunction with the Mercedes Benz of Arizona Facebook group planned and organized a Cars and Coffee event which was graciously hosted by the North Scottsdale Mercedes Benz dealership. The event began at 9:00 and by 9:30 there were over 30 cars that had shown up from both groups. Many of the cars from the Mercedes Benz of Arizona Facebook group are pure classic cars driven by enthusiasts who like to build, tinker, talk and show their cars. All these drivers are pleasant, mechanically oriented pleasures to be around. This event brought out several Desert Stars members not normally seen at club events which too was totally exciting. The Desert Stars has some great members. Of course, also in attendance were several of our Desert Stars regulars that came by to show off their cars, interact with the group and meet new friends with their Benz's. By 10:30 there were well over 60 cars that were at this event.

Michelle Petrenko who is the general manager of North Scottsdale Mercedes Benz asked her team to clear the north side of the dealership's parking lot to accommodate the enthusiasts as well as she had her team provide food, drinks, coffee and a one-time 15% discount at the dealer's boutique during the event which was totally fantastic. The Desert Stars and all participants took full advantage of this hospitality. I saw some new hats being worn at lunch. I also noticed several of the dealership's sales team were out interacting with the participants too which frankly was just cool. The weather cooperated with temps in the 80's and the event wrapped up officially at 11:30. However, there were still folks in the lot after noon.

At least 20 of the cars then headed out toward Bartlett Lake for a very nice cruise and great lunch at the Orr House Restaurant at the Marina. This part of the event solidified the friendships made at the cars and coffee event and the restaurant did a fine job taking care of the group with great food and outstanding service. All and all a mighty fine day and very fulfilling to see the enthusiasm of everyone in attendance.

A special thank you to Michelle Petrenko and her executive assistant Lorri Grambo for working with us to put this together. Additionally, the quality of the cars and enthusiasm of the Mercedes of Arizona Facebook members lead by Michal Pasiut is really appreciated. His group of enthusiastic members are carrying the torch for his group, and we will be working with them hopefully for years to come. Michal's creativity in graphics and hosting his Facebook and Instagram page sure brought out some mighty fine Benz's.

A special thank you to Mercedes of Arizona and Mercedes-Benz of North Scottsdale for the pictures they shared with us.





Holiday Party – Dec 10, 2023

By Debbie Ichiyama

I want to thank all who attended the party this year. It was great to catch up with everyone.

The weather was ideal, and we enjoyed the beautiful setting and once again the Grayhawk Golf Club which was a big hit. After a delicious meal, we proceeded with our tradition of recognizing our member anniversaries. Resident Emcee, Chuck Stanford, presented the anniversary recognition pins to the recipients who were in attendance. This year's recipients for 10 years were Larry & Catherine Bryson and Mike Welton. For 15 years Robert Mosley and Stuart Thorn. Twenty-five years Steve Jensen & Karen Manser. Forty years David Neal. Congratulations to all.

The member of the Year award was presented to Ed and Annette Crawford in recognition for all the hard work and time devoted to the Desert Stars.

This year we did a Gift Exchange, Ed and Annette organized this part of the day. It was a huge success, and we look forward to having it again next year.

Thanks to all who brought toys for the 2023 Toy Drive, which were delivered to the Scottsdale Fire Department. As always, the firemen were truly impressed by all the toys collected and they expressed their gratitude for all the club's efforts.

Thanks to all.



Larry & Catherine Bryson



Mike Welton



Left Robert Mosley
right Stuart Thorn





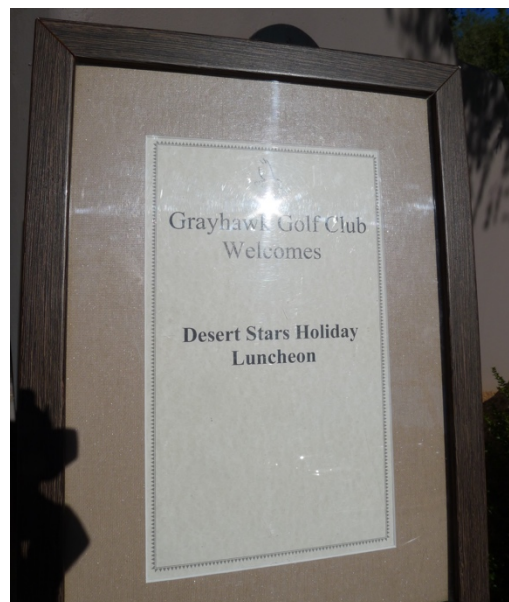
Steve Jensen & Karen Manser



David Neal



Annette & Ed Crawford



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

Join our friends!



Mercedes of Arizona
PRESENTS

Cars & Coffee

JANUARY 13th 9:00AM - 12:00PM

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Cars and Coffee Dec 16th

By Ron Borino

On Saturday, the 16th of December the Desert Stars connected with the folks from the Mercedes Benz of Arizona Facebook page to meet at South Mountain Park in Phoenix for cars, coffee and camaraderie. This event drew around 30 cars and at least 50 enthusiasts began with staging in the main parks parking lot. After about an hour of looking at cars, visiting and just having fun the group started a drive up the mountain to the lookout area. It was a great drive and a day for a drive. I would encourage any Desert Star to participate with this group if you are looking for some new folks to meet and interact with. Just a fun time. Watch for info on future events on Social Media and Eblasts.



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MB Enthusiasts Dinner

Please register and pay by Jan 14, 2024

Name(s) Registering: _____ Number Attending: _____

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

Registration Fee is \$50 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 (808) 282-5249

M.B.E.A.T.

Please register and pay by April 12, 2024

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 person members and \$30 per person non-members

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

Registration in this event requires signing the clubs Standard Release and Wavier of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement the day of the event.

For Sale

2007 MB CLS63, loaded, Designo edition, dark grey metallic, light silk/blk interior. Three owners since new, all Desert stars members. All services up to date. 36.5K original miles. Call for details, 401-225-2090.



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Become part of the team

Would you like to be on the Board of Directors of the Desert Stars, if so please contact Debbie Ichiyama dichiyama@me.com. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September to April with the Annual Business meeting in May. Meetings are held both in person and via zoom.

Mark your calendar now for January in Arizona Arizona Concours date set for January 21, 2024

By Check Stanford Jr

The Arizona Concours is again preparing for its annual showing of some of the world's most beautiful, extraordinary, and unique classic automobiles. This highly curated selection of rare cars will come from more than 20 states and several countries to be judged in hopes of capturing awards and the coveted Best-of-Show. This year in addition to 12 recurring classes, the show will feature vehicles from "Sixty Years of Lamborghini", "Personal Custom Styling Interpretations", and "The Designs of Carrozzeria Touring." Be sure to put January 20-21 on your calendar – you won't want to miss this sophisticated event held at the newly redesigned Scottsdale Civic Center. Tickets are available at [ArizonaConcours.org](https://arizonaconcours.org) and make a great Holiday gift for that special car person in your life.

Volunteers are also being recruited to assist with a variety of duties required for this complex show and competition. About 150 people are needed to work the event (and get free entry to the Concours). Look to [ArizonaConcours.org](https://arizonaconcours.org) for more information.

The **Arizona Concours d'Elegance**, a signature feature of January in Arizona, is partnered with Scottsdale Arts to present the event, which blends history, design and technology. Proceeds from the Concours will benefit local artists and art programs.





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Car Auctions 2024

By Mark Ichiyama

Here's the projected schedule for January 2024 Auctions:

Barrett Jackson - January 20th through the 28th – Westworld

www.barrett-jackson.com

Bonham's - January 25th at Westin Kierland Resort and Spa

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/29260/the-scottsdale-auction/>

Motorsport Auction Group January 25th – 27th Ft McDowell

<https://www.motorsportauctiongroup.com/auction/177/2024-January-Collector-Car-Auction>

RM Sotheby's - January 25th at the Arizona Biltmore Resort

<https://rmsothebys.com/en/auctions/az24>

Worldwide Auctioneers - January 26th Singh Meadows, 1490 E Weber, Tempe, AZ 85288

<https://worldwideauctioneers.com/scottsdale-2024/>


Mecum Auctions – March 5 – 9 2024 State Farm Stadium Glendale, AZ

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

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National has a new Facebook page. Check out www.facebook.com/groups/mercedesbenzclubofamerica/
Jan – Feb 2024

Sponsor Spotlight – Radford Racing School

Tell us a little about Radford Racing School and its history.

Radford Racing School is a premier performance driving and racing training center offering world-class instruction to students of all skill levels. Located in Chandler, the school's state-of-the-art facilities are located on a 450-acre campus with its own racetrack, skills pad, and trackside event center. A wide range of classes are taught in a fleet of 100+ specially-prepared instructional vehicles including coupes, sedans, SUVs, Ligier JS F4 single-seat race cars, and gas-powered go karts.

The school has been in operation for 55 years and has taught everyone from professional drivers and celebrities to everyday drivers and freshly-licensed teens. In 2021, it was rebranded from the Bondurant High Performance Driving School to the Radford Racing School. The name change is just one part of the school's revitalization, which has included an extensive renovation and expansion of the facility, an enhanced curriculum, and new courses with racing license accreditations.

What types of driver training does Radford Racing School offer?

The school offers a little of everything. High-performance street driving courses, more advanced track driving and road racing courses, classes in drag racing, new teen driver training, as well as police and military training. And as the official performance driving school of Dodge/SRT, we offer a course for new owners of Dodge SRT vehicles, which comes free with the purchase of their vehicles.

Can the track be configured for different driving situations?

While the school has exclusive use of its own 15-turn, 1.6-mile Main road course and a 10-acre skills pad, it also has access to several other tracks on the property, including a NHRA-sanctioned drag strip and even an off-road driving/racing course. There's a driving course and teaching environment for just about everybody.

Are there any special certifications that come with attending a Radford Racing School class?

Radford Racing School is the only school in the world that offers the opportunity for students to earn both an SCCA and IMSA road racing license, as well as an NHRA competition drag racing license.

For road racing fans, successful completion of the 4-day Grand Prix Road Racing course fulfills all eligibility to receive SCCA and IMSA competition licenses. Meanwhile, students in the drag racing course have the option of qualifying for an NHRA "9-second" certification, all from behind the wheel of an 840-hp, drag racing-optimized Dodge SRT Demon production car.

Who is Radford Racing School's typical client?

Everyday drivers, auto enthusiasts, new drivers, and others all enjoy the experience of learning in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Some classes are full of life-long driving enthusiasts, while others are comprised of newcomers who have only recently discovered the joys of motoring. Regardless of their experience, all clients leave with greater confidence in their capabilities no matter how or what they drive.

What else can you tell us about the facility?

In addition to the consistent evolution of the curriculum originally created by famed racer Bob Bondurant, considerable investment has been made to nearly every corner of the facility including upgrades and renovations to the track, event center, student lounge, and gift shop.

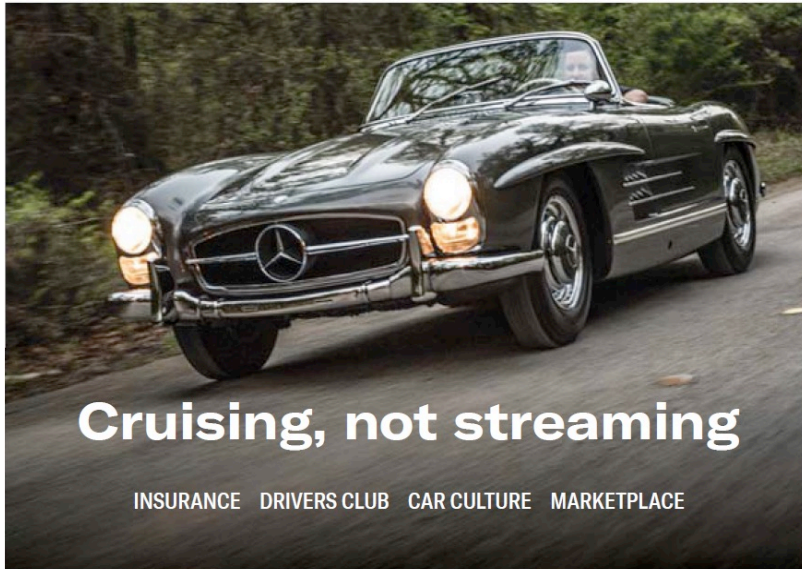
What kind of events can be hosted at Radford Racing School?

Private rentals allow individuals or corporations alike to design an event from the ground up alongside a personal event coordinator. This allows for utilization of our entire facility or just parts as needed. Other features of a special event could be go-karting, autocross, car shows, hot laps, lead-and-follow and more. For those looking to enjoy the facility privately, special arrangements can be made to accommodate small groups of friends, family, VIPs, etc. either in school cars or their own.



Facility at Sunset

Jan – Feb 2024



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2023 AMG G 63

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Team Tino Ferrulli

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4725 North Scottsdale Road • Scottsdale, AZ

Tino Ferrulli

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 Stuttgart and Classic Center at Fellbach, the expansive assembly plant at Sindelfingen, the AMG engine shop in Affalterbach 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 Cruise 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!





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Jan – Feb 2024

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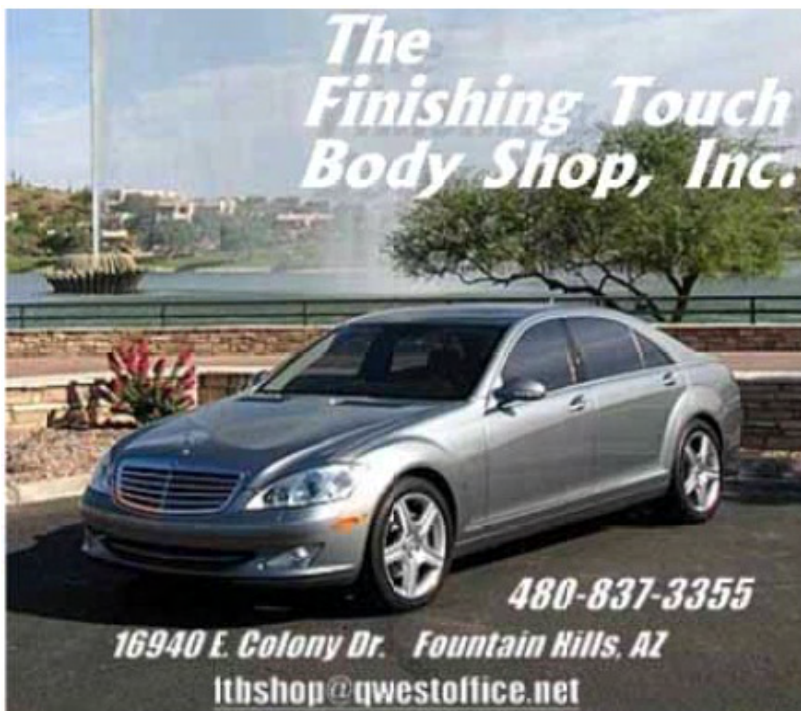
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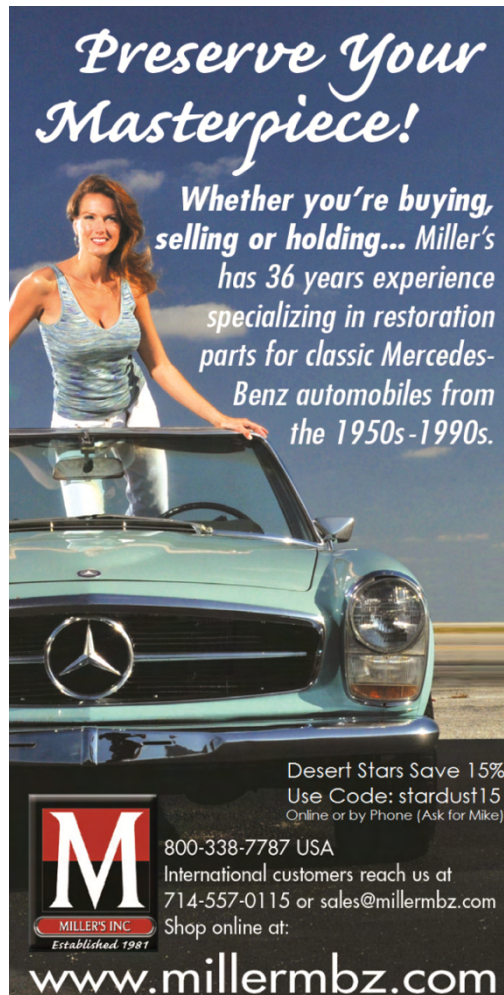


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By Ron Borino

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 5th – Saturday, March 9th. 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 **24MBCA CLUB** 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
(800) 637-2360
Online at <http://mbca.org>

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

SAVE THESE DATES

Jan 28	Sun	MB Enthusiasts Dinner
March 5 th – 9 th	Tues – Sat	Mecum Auction
March 30	Sat	Cars & Coffee
April 20-21	Sat – Sun	MBEAT
TBD		Spring Picnic
TBD		Annual Meeting
TBD		Poker Run
TBD	Fall 2024	Havasupai
Dec 8	Sun	Holiday Party

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