

May - June

# The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

## Star Night

By Rhonda & Ron Borino

Hey there Desert Stars. How about a good old fashion STARNIGHT! We are thinking of dinner at White Chocolate Grill June 19<sup>th</sup> with our reservation seating at 5:30 p.m. [White Chocolate Grill](#) is located at 7000 East Mayo Blvd in the northwest corner of Mayo and Scottsdale Road. Please register for the for this event, **On or BEFORE June 5<sup>th</sup>**. We need a count for the restaurant.

Register by calling Rhonda at **602-989-6833**.

BTW, White Chocolate has a happy hour drink specials and appetizers with their bar opening at 4:00 p.m. Feel free to think about happy hour before coming to dinner.



## President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

With summer rapidly approaching, I would like to wish safe travels to all our members who head to cooler climates for the summer months. For those of you who stay in the Valley, join us for the Star Night in June. And we look forward to seeing you at the Havasupai Rallye in October. Details on this event will be in future issues of the StarDust and via email blasts.

Stay safe and keep cool.

*Debbie*



## Welcome our new Members!

February

Ian Lisk

March

Henny Karreman  
William Nelson

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

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

## Annual Havasupai Rallye – Save the Date!

By David Cesal

The Desert Stars Chapter is excited to announce the planning of the Annual Havasupai Rallye, tentatively scheduled for late October 2025. Mark your calendars for either October 17–19 or October 24–26, 2025. This beloved event will traverse the breathtaking Mojave Desert regions of western Arizona and Las Vegas, offering a delightful weekend road trip or a thrilling competitive adventure. Members of other Mercedes-Benz chapters are warmly invited to join.

Each team, consisting of one driver and one navigator per vehicle, will convene in Lake Havasu, Arizona, on Friday afternoon by checking-in to a hotel by the bluff overlooking Lake Havasu and the bridge, and then join a pre-rallye night reception. On the following day, the rallye will begin early Saturday morning as teams cross the historic London Bridge under the green flag, embarking on a day exploring scenic sites driving by landmarks, and hidden gems. Participants will have the option to enter a contest answering over +80 engaging questions, testing their observation and knowledge. The journey will conclude at a Las Vegas hotel, with ample time to check-in and freshen-up for the evening's awards banquet. Trophies will be presented to the top three teams attaining the highest scores.

Stay tuned for finalized dates, fees and registration details in the next newsletter edition.



Old London Bridge that was moved to Lake Havasu City AZ

## 2025 M-B.E.A.T.

By John Hutchison

We had perfect weather and driving conditions for our tour of the back roads to Prescott and Flagstaff on Saturday April 26th with a total of 13 cars and 26 club members in attendance. We gathered first at a relatively new business in North Phoenix called Desert Donuts where each participant was offered a "custom" decorated donut and a cup of coffee or other refreshment to get them by until lunch. After a "driver's meeting" where everyone was cautioned about the route we were taking, and the hazards that we might encounter (examples: cows or other animals on the road, bikers/hikers, motorcyclists, speed traps, etc.) before reaching our destination. Generally, except for plenty of curves to contend with (to the joy of those with an SL or other similar topless vehicle, we encountered NO difficulties, and the only "animal" that was the report of an encounter with a JACKALOPE by one of the attendees!!! Unfortunately, they did NOT bring photographic evidence that such an encounter was made with this type of legendary animal in our desert.

Our first stop was at Coffinger Park in Wickenburg for individual and group pictures, many of which accompany this article. Note that there was a German Cousin in the group, but what a beautiful cousin it was. Chuck and Ava have had their Porsche 981 Boxster Spyder for several years and took it out this weekend to enjoy some TPLSFUN!!! After our rest break we were again on the road following the future INTERSTATE 11 toward Las Vegas for about 40 miles through the Joshua Tree Forest of Arizona before heading into the outback for lunch in Bagdad.

Bagdad has a prominent place in Arizona history. It has been a source of copper for the past 130+ years; the first copper claim was staked there in the early 1880's. At the start, mining operations were underground with only small success, and it was not until 1906 when the Giroux Syndicate was taken over by The Bagdad Copper Company that they greatly improved their copper output. The mine was transitioned to an open-pit operation in 1945 with further expansion in 1973 (when it merged with Cyprus Mines) with the incorporation of new haul trucks, shovels and over 400 housing units and a large concentrator. In the ensuing years, the mine has been owned by Phelps Dodge and is currently owned and operated by Freeport-McMoRan.

After an excellent lunch at the Copper Country Bar & Grill, we continued toward our next major destination of Prescott, AZ through the rolling hills and valleys of the desert outback passing the almost forgotten towns of Hillside, Yava and Kirkland until finally heading into Prescott's busy downtown. We found the streets around the Courthouse Square closed off for a weekend event but navigable. Some participants decided to stay in town to shop or walk around the downtown area and explore the shops along Montezuma Street which is more commonly known as Whiskey Row. Others continued the back roads toward Williams or toward Jerome, Cottonwood Sedona, and then finally reached Flagstaff late in the afternoon at our destination, the Little America Hotel.

After gathering for Happy Hour in the hotel bar, we sat down for an excellent dinner in the Silver Pine Restaurant.

We are looking for one or several members to volunteer to set up and run next year's run.



Group picture at Coffinger Park



Harman & Susan Cadis



Cathy & Bill Hurtle



Crystal & Brian Loveless



Donna Willemesen & Rich Schulte



Richard & Yvonne Leamon



Terry & Katherine Coulthard



Brynn & Don Burton



Barb & Jim Boyle



Pam & Douglas Bryson



Ron & Rhonda Borino



Marianne & John Hutchison



Ava & Chuck Stanford



Happy Hour before dinner

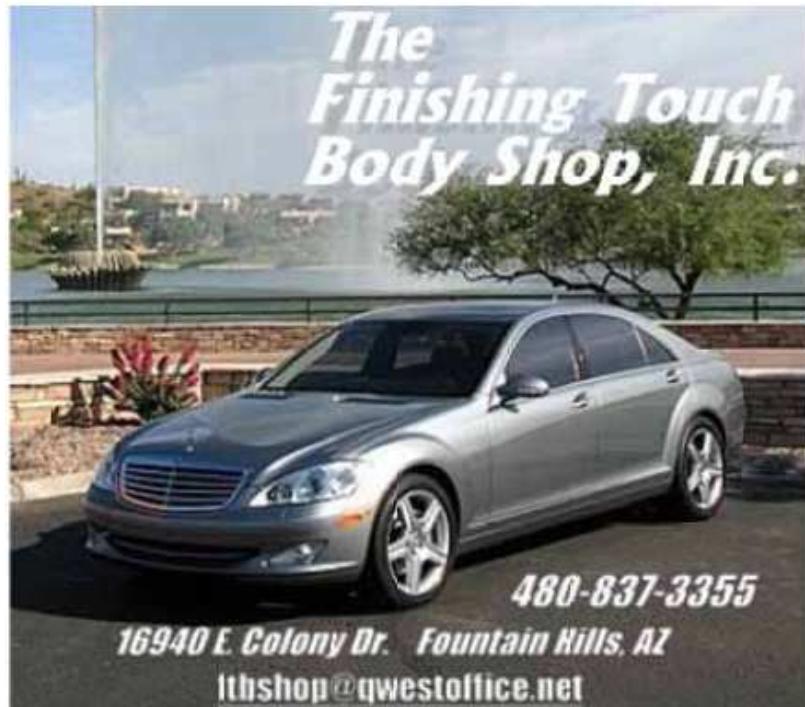
For those who didn't go to the Grand Canyon on Sunday below is a sample of what you missed. Thank you to Ron and Rhonda for sharing your pics with us.







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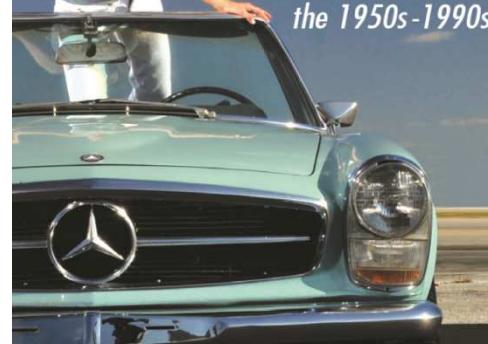
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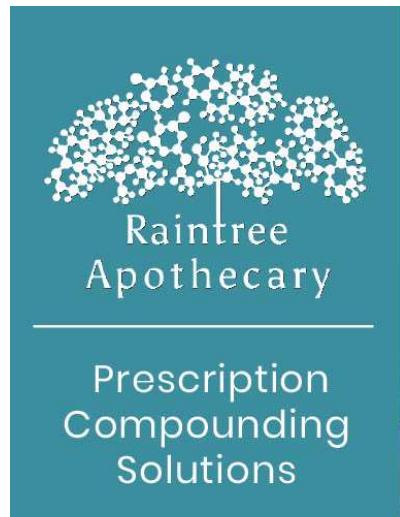


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## **SAVE THESE DATES**

June 19

Thursday

Star Night

Oct 17-19 or Oct 24-26

Friday to Sunday

Havasuapi

Dec 7

Sunday

Holiday Party