



# The Saguaro Star

Serving Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts throughout Southern Arizona

- ✓ President Mike Zonnefeld on what's happening in the club (p. 2)

## Gathering momentum for another EVENTful year -



- ✓ Guest Column: An unfortunate accident and the safety of our Mercedes-Benz (p.3)

The Chaparral Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America finished 2010 with a flurry of events and then went into overdrive for the first quarter of 2011. A renewed interest in short duration, local driving events, coupled with strong attendance at local car shows and social events has brought continued excitement to the Chaparral Section.

- ✓ Car shows, social gatherings and Tech Sessions - don't miss these great events! (p. 5)



- ✓ AZ Winter fare at the Annual Holiday Party, Tubac Annual Collectors Car Show, Sweetheart Mixer and the Franklin Auto Museum . (p. 7,9, 11)



We closed 2010 with our Annual Holiday party at the Mountain Oyster Club in Tucson. Chaparral members donated enough Toys for Tots to fill a new Mercedes-Benz GLK 350, on loan from Mercedes-Benz of Tucson.

- ✓ Club Calendar for 2011 (p. 11)

The MBCA Southwestern Regional Director , Steve Ross, presented the award for Southwestern Region Officer of the Year to Margaret Bly, Chaparral Section Director of Membership, and the Chaparral Section Member of the Year was presented to Michael Turner, co-editor of the Saguaro Star newsletter.

- ✓ Support our Advertisers!

Chaparral Section Board Meetings occur every second Thursday at 6:00 PM at the Martha Cooper Library, 1377 North Catalina Avenue, Tucson, AZ. For national Mercedes-Benz club information, go to [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org). The Chaparral Section "Trading Post" and other local news are posted at [www.tucsonsmclub.org](http://www.tucsonsmclub.org). The Saguaro Star newsletter is published four times per year. We announce new events, date changes and other important information electronically. Not receiving our e-news? Contact any of our Board members (see the list on page 2), email us at [tucsonsmclub@gmail.com](mailto:tucsonsmclub@gmail.com)) or click the "Contact Us" link on our home page at [www.tucsonsmclub.org](http://www.tucsonsmclub.org)

April - June 2011

Please visit our website: [www.tucsonsmclub.org](http://www.tucsonsmclub.org)



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## Our club is holding steady...

Events! Events! If you have noticed, there are a lot of local, regional and national MBCA events going on. Your president was responsible for the February Sweetheart Mixer, and then due to emergency surgery had to miss what I am told, was a fine local event! I hope those of you who did get to attend, enjoyed this gathering in honor of our sweethearts while enjoying our wonderful Mercedes Automobiles!

Our club membership is holding steady, which these days is remarkable, since many organizations are suffering due to our slow economy; A big thank you to our membership for "keeping the faith". Our newsletter that is getting wonderful reviews from all over, now features new editors. Jerry Tucker, after a remarkable and outstanding effort in getting it off the ground has passed the newsletter to Mike Turner and Rich Luhr. They both have excellent experience, and we can all look forward to continued newsletter excellence! Thank you Jerry, Rich and Mike!

Our local Mercedes dealer, Tucson Mercedes, is making steady progress on their new facility located on the SE corner of Wilmot and Grant. They are still planning on occupying the new store by early to mid summer. We look forward to continued support from them in their new facility. Good Luck Mercedes-Benz of Tucson!

Keep an eye on our website, as it always has the latest about our Chaparral Section events, local, regional and national, as well as local news concerning our wonderful automobiles.

Keep on driving safely, while enjoying these remarkable automobiles'. Don't forget to let your hard working board members know your wishes in our Section. Come and attend our monthly board meetings. Everyone is welcome!

Mike Zonnefeld  
President



## Guest Column

# We've all heard how well Mercedes-Benz automobiles are designed for safety, but...

Chaparral Section member Margaret Bly recently got a first-hand reminder when her 2006 CLK350 convertible was t-boned at an intersection.

The accident happened on January 13, as Margaret was pulling away from a stop sign on her way to a monthly meeting of the club board. A Ford Focus crashed into the side of her car hard enough to trigger several safety features of her car. Both driver's side air bags deployed with a puff of black smoke. The hazard lights went on automatically, the roll-over safety pillars at the back of the convertible popped up, and Margaret heard the voice of someone asking her if she was all right on the SOS system.



Perhaps a bit dazed from the impact, she didn't answer. "I was too interested in getting out," said Margaret, "as I did not know if my car was on fire. The source of the black smoke had not yet dawned on me."

The driver's door of the car was jammed shut, but she was able to slide over the center console and exit through the passenger side door. Notably, the interior of the car did not show any sign of intrusion, demonstrating that the strong body side structure of the car completely protected her.

Amazingly, Margaret arrived at the board meeting that evening -- a bit late, but completely uninjured and even casual about her accident earlier.



The car, however, will be down for an estimated 58 days. The damage cost came in at \$9,500. The entire driver's side of the car will be repaired and repainted, the air bags will be replaced, and the leather seat covers will have to be replaced as well, since the black soot from the airbags can't be cleaned out.

"I have always been a fan of the Mercedes products," said Margaret. "Now I am a confirmed lover of German engineering and all the safety features. While it's no fun to be in an accident, it was very informational and interesting to be able to see first hand all the safety features that have been built into a car. Thank you Mercedes-Benz."

Rich Luhr



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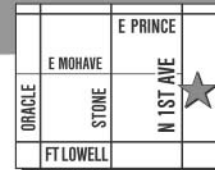
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# Upcoming Events

## April 2, 2011 - Rally to Patagonia - lunch

Join other Chaparral Section members for a fun daytrip down to Patagonia and Sonoita AZ. We will meet at the commuter parking lot on the north side of the I-10 / S. Houghton Rd exit at 10:00 a.m. From there, we'll drive 44 miles to Patagonia along the scenic Sonoita Highway (AZ 83). In Patagonia we will park at the town's central park and walk over to the library to meet Dr. Charles Spiher for a brief talk & slide show about the W110 & W111 chassis "Finbacks." Then we'll head up to Sonoita for lunch at the The Steak Out, before heading back home. Interested drivers, please email the leader Rich Luhr at rich@airstreamlife.com.

## April 23, 2011 - Vanderpool's Collision Specialists - Tech Session

Vanderpool's Collision Specialists located at 1548 S. Euclid Ave. in Tucson will be hosting a tech session for Chaparral members beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 23, 2011. This session should give us some good insights into what it takes to put our cars back in shape after years of wear and tear coupled with a few fender benders thrown in for good measure. Wayne Vanderpool would like to have some idea of how many will be attending so please RSVP to Gary Fielding at gmf-hef@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

## May 14, 2011 - Annual Members Brunch

The Chaparral Section Board of Directors is considering holding our Annual Members Brunch at a different location this year. The details have not been finalized as the newsletter goes to press. The contact is Fred Finney, Fred Finney <fred@tucsonsmcedesclub.org> . Please visit the Chaparral Section website at <http://www.tucsonsmcedesclub.org/> for the latest news concerning this event.

## June 11, 2011 - Drive to Mount Lemmon - box lunch

Need a quick respite from the Summer heat? Join other Chaparral Section members for a short trip up Mount Lemmon, with a box lunch in the Summerhaven vicinity on Saturday, June 11, 2011. The event contact is Margaret Bly, Margaret@tucsonsmcedesclub.org. Please visit the Chaparral Section website at <http://www.tucsonsmcedesclub.org/> for the latest news concerning this event.

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## Annual Holiday Party

The Chaparral Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America closed out a great year in grand style with a dinner and social gathering at the very nice Mountain Oyster Club in Tucson. The 46 members and guests started the evening off by filling a Mercedes-Benz GLK-350, on loan from Mercedes-Benz of Tucson, with items for the Toys-for-Tots program, that is coordinated by the US Marine Corps in Tucson.

Our hosts for the evening, Ed and Barbara Gladish, again provided a perfect venue and even better food and drink and good conversation. Our Southwestern Regional Director, Steve Ross, awarded the Southwestern Region Officer of the Year to Margaret Bly, Chaparral Section Direct of Membership,



and the Chaparral Section Member of the Year was presented to Michael Turner, co-editor of the Saguaro Star newsletter.



The evening's festivities were capped by our own Chaparral Section President, Mike Zonnefeld, singing several "oldies but goodies" and strumming his guitar. To sum up the many emails of thanks and enjoyment for the evenings' festivities; "Great ambiance, great food, excellent music, wonderful friends".

## Tubac Annual Collectors Car Show

The new year started off with the Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts, Annual Collectors Car Show in January. Fourteen members and their Mercedes-Benz automobiles braved the absolutely perfect weather for a January Car show.



Our event coordinators, Bill and Cathy Hooper, again provided excellent instructions and directions for the show. The show itself was a great event; a decidedly "collector classics" show. Our many Mercedes-Benz classic automobiles, coupled with a large turnout of members with late model to brand new vehicles, caused quite a buzz with the public.



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## Sweetheart Mixer

Bulletin... At 1800 hours, Saturday February 19th, 10 Mercedes-Benz automobiles were observed entering into the Hacienda del Lago Golf Club parking lot, in Vail, AZ. Twenty-Three persons of unknown character and demeanor were seen exiting the vehicles. A view with a high powered camera disclosed that the attire included a name tag of sorts with the words Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Chaparral Section printed on a dark blue background. Upon completion of the movement of the aforementioned persons from the vehicles, several pictures were taken of the vehicles, to be used as evidence if required at a later time.



Inside the striking Hacienda del Lago restaurant, an interview was conducted with one of the people, sporting a name tag that read Fred Finney. Mr. Finney, accompanied by his beautiful bride Vera, was kind enough to explain that the "event" for the evening was the Annual Sweetheart Mixer sponsored by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Chaparral Section.



Upon completion of the meal and several "speeches", the group broke up and headed out to the parking lot to begin their next journey in their wonderful Mercedes-Benz automobiles. As they drove away, the sounds of "A good time was had by all" could be heard on the wind.

## Franklin Auto Museum

The Franklin Auto Museum is a well-hidden secret in Tucson. Tucked away down a short stretch of dirt road (near Pima & Vine), it houses a spectacular collection of unusual and beautiful automobiles. On March 5, half a dozen members of the Chaparral Section joined interpreters from the museum for a special guided tour through the three buildings open to the public.



Franklin automobiles featured air-cooled engines, legitimately touted by the manufacturer as being based on aviation technology. At a time when a Ford could be had for \$500, a Franklin might cost over \$3,000, which naturally limited their market. But in many ways, the Franklins were similar to the Mercedes of today: a well-styled premium automobile that was often ahead of the pack in terms of innovation.

At just a \$5 suggested donation, all of the members of the Chaparral Section who visited would agree that the museum is well worth a visit. Open mid-October through Memorial Day, Wednesday through Saturday 10 AM -4 PM.



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1935 Mercedes-Benz 770 Grand Mercedes Pullman Limousine.  
Photograph courtesy of Mary Turner via the Mercedes-Benz  
Museum, Stuttgart, Germany. 18.03.2010



## 2011 Calendar of Events

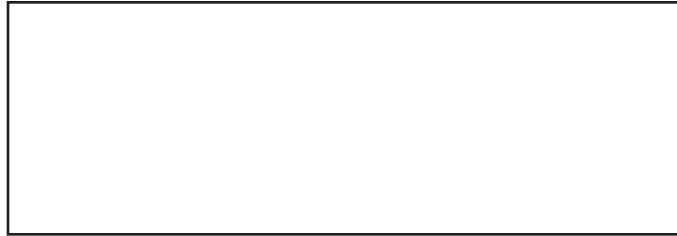
Date	Event	Host-Contact
April 2, 2011	Rally to Patagonia-lunch	Rich Luhr
April 23, 2011	Vanderpool's Collision Specialist	Gary Fielding
May 14, 2011	Annual Members Brunch	Fred Finney
June 11, 2011	Drive to Mount Lemmon-box lunch	Margaret Bly
<b>July &amp; August</b>	<b>none- club is dark</b>	<b>none</b>
September 10, 2011	Annual Meeting & Tech. Session	Gary Fielding
October 22, 2011	5th Annual Tucson Classics Car Show	Jerry Tucker/Michael Cooper
November 19, 2011	San Xavier Mission/lunch at Tubac Country Club	Robert Pascalar and Bill Hooper, Jerry Tucker
December 17, 2011	Annual Holiday Party at Mountain Oyster Club	Ed Gladish



Oro Valley Car Show, March 12, 2011



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