



The Saguaro Star

Serving Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts throughout Southern Arizona

The End of Summer. The Beginning of a New Event Year -

- ✓ President Mike Zonnefeld on what's happening in the club (p. 2)
- ✓ Guest Column: Steve Ross on benefits of MBCA membership (p.3)
- ✓ Social gatherings, Tech Sessions and Car shows, - don't miss these great events! (p. 5,7,9)
- ✓ Club Calendar for 2011 (p. 11)
- ✓ Another Mercedes-Benz safety Statement by a Chaparral member (pg 11.)

✓ Support our Advertisers!

The *Dog Days of Summer* are behind us and the Chaparral Section has begun the new event year with our Annual Members Meeting at a local ski lodge / restaurant on Mount Lemmon. We had a good turnout and a great drive up and down the mountain. The Chaparral Section welcomed new members and first time event attendees, Bill and Katie Amoureux, who have recently acquired a "new" SL600. WELCOME to the Chaparral Section.

Of course, all-the-buzz for Mercedes-Benz owners in Tucson is the opening of the new Mercedes-Benz of Tucson dealership. And, what a new facility it is. Our President, Mike Zonnefeld, talks about the new digs in his Presidents' Message.



The most important event of the Annual Member's meeting was the election of Section Officers for the coming year. Mike Zonnefeld was elected President; Gary Fielding was elected Vice President, Fred Finney was elected Treasurer and Michael "Coop" Cooper was retained as the Section Secretary. The remaining board members were appointed by the executive committee at the meeting in at Ski Valley.

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.mbca.org. The Chaparral Section "Trading Post" and other local news are posted at www.tucsonsmcedesclub.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 tucsonsmcedesclub@gmail.com) or click the "Contact Us" link on our home page at www.tucsonsmcedesclub.org

October - December 2011

Please visit our website: www.tucsonsmcedesclub.org



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The Start of Another Exciting Season -

We are about to start another exciting season of Chaparral Section events and want you to come out and enjoy these as well. Our Board of Directors works hard in arranging these for your enjoyment. See the events calendar and make plans to come join other Mercedes fans at our events.

This past summer we have seen world wide economic instability, intense heat, droughts, hurricanes, tornados, wild fires, floods, and their damage, and yet successful endeavors such as Mercedes-Benz continue to thrive. Through several wars, earlier economic and world crisis, Mercedes-Benz has weathered the tests of time and all obstructions along the way. The consistent quality, value and comfort brought to the consumer by these outstanding cars continues to buoy them above all these crises. Mercedes-Benz is conservatively managed, and continues to be responsive to changing market conditions and customer desires, while bringing high quality to the market place. Members of Chaparral Section of MBCA are the people that recognize these qualities and also exhibit the same qualities in their personal and business lives.

More News! Mercedes-Benz of Tucson has opened their new 93,000 square foot, multimillion dollar state of the art facility located at 6350 E Grant Road, in Tucson, across the street from Costco. John Hornbeck, general manager, asked me to extend their thank you to the Mercedes-Benz customers, for as he says, "Our customers and employees made this facility possible!" "Without them, none of this would have happened!" When you have a chance, visit this outstanding facility that clearly has the customer in mind as its foremost design consideration! We in the Chaparral section of MBCA are truly blessed with outstanding Mercedes-Benz Sales and Service in our area, and now Mercedes-Benz of Tucson has brought that level of service and customer satisfaction to a new level! Take the time to visit this new facility! Enjoy their wonderful hospitality and check out their high tech show room and service facility.

As always, drive safely while enjoying your Mercedes-Benz and plan to attend events designed for you!

Mike Zonnefeld, President





REGIONAL DIRECTORS CORNER

Steve Ross

Director, Southwestern Region

Many of you may be aware of ongoing and completed initiatives by the MBCA and the National Business Office in increasing the benefits of being a member of the MBCA community. You may learn about these benefits through the MBCA website, STAR magazine or they may have been sent to you by your section leaders via e-mail or published in your section newsletter.

I am going to quickly summarize some of these benefits so all of us are aware and can use these "perks" if we want. These discounts and special deals are available in our region:

- Lodging and Resorts: Montelucia Resort, Scottsdale, AZ, Rancho Las Palmas, Rancho Mirage, CA, and the Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado, CA.
- The Sears Commercial Buying Program is a significant discount according to members that have used it; Hand tools and furniture come to mind.

I urge you to visit the MBCA website and under membership go to All Benefits and learn more about the programs I have mentioned. You owe it to

yourself to take advantage of these benefits and if you have not heard about them ask your leadership why. So, you see we not only have exciting events, there are many other benefits of membership for all to enjoy. Elections are in full swing by some of our sections and coming up soon for others. I urge you to take the time and show compassion and vote for those section members presenting themselves to work and lead your section. Why not step up to the plate and run yourself or help out. A section with a board that gets some help is fun, successful and retains members. You will be getting your National Board election ballots soon. It is paramount that you take the time to research and vote for these candidates. Please, Please vote. Not voting is giving up your voice in what is going on in your club. Any questions, give me a call.

I am extremely pleased and excited announce that Desert Stars Section has been selected to host StarFest 2012. It has all the ingredients to be the biggest StarFest held in many years. In fact the best attended StarFest was hosted by Desert Stars a few years ago. I urge us all to get behind Desert Stars and make this event a Southwest Region success story.

REMEMBER OUR SW MOTTO:
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Upcoming Events

October 22, 2011 - 5th Annual Tucson Classics Car Show

Come out and join other Chaparral Section members in supporting this worthwhile event. This is the largest Classic and Custom Car Show in Southern Arizona. The show is presented by The Rotary Club of Tucson with proceeds benefiting the Reading Seed Children's Literacy Program and other Rotary Club of Tucson Foundation charities. The show runs from 10 am to 4 pm and is located on the grounds of St. Gregory College Preparatory School at 3231 N. Craycroft Rd., Tucson, AZ 85712 • Get Directions
Contact Jerry Tucker or Michael Cooper or <http://tucsonclassicscarshow.com/> for more information.

November 19, 2011 - San Xavier Mission/lunch at Quail Creek

Take a short drive out to the San Xavier Mission on Tucson's Southwest side and enjoy a guided tour of the mission. Then join our coordinators Robert Pascual, Bill Hooper and Jerry Tucker for a relaxing lunch at the Grill at Quail Creek.

December 17, 2011 - Annual Holiday Party at the Mountain Oyster Club

Our annual party will be at the Mountain Oyster Club, 6400 E. Eldorado Circle #100, Tucson. Ed and Barbara Gladish have graciously invited the Chaparral Section to join them for an evening of good food and ... More information will be forthcoming via e-mail as the date draws closer.

January 27 -28, 2012 - 18th Annual Collector Car Show

Come on down and join the Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts for this premier collector car show. Last year, 14 Chaparral Section members attended the show, so this year we have been granted our own Mercedes class for the show. We need a minimum of 18 registrants to maintain the class for 2013 and beyond. Whether you are an MBCA member or not, come join us in the "line of Mercedes-Benz" at the show. Please use "Class #20 - Mercedes - All" when you register. <http://www.carnuts.org> for more information

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Please check the Chaparral Section website for the most current information concerning these events and all Section activities.
<http://www.tucsonsmarcedesclub.org/>



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Section Events...



Chaparral Section Annual Members Meeting 2011...

On Saturday, September 10, 2011, the Chaparral Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America held its Annual Membership Meeting . The day started with a gathering of 13 Mercedes-Benz automobiles at the northeast corner of Tanque Verde Road and the Catalina Highway for a leisurely drive up to Mt Lemmon and Ski Valley. Unfortunately, one member did not make the drive up the mountain due to a newly discovered issue with the brakes on his 1980 450SL. The drive included a very nice stop at Windy Point, milepost 14.1.



The remaining 12 members and their guests/associate members, made our way to the Iron Door restaurant in Ski Valley, (milepost 25.0) and enjoyed a pleasing lunch of German and American food.

The annual meeting was opened by President Mike Zonnefeld and the normal section business was conducted, and concluded with the election of officers for the coming fiscal year, October 1, 2011 through 30 September 2012. The officers elected are:

-  Mike Zonnefeld (President)
-  Gary Fielding (Vice President)
-  Fred Finney (Treasurer)
-  Michael Cooper (Secretary)



The remaining Board of Directors, listed on the inside of the cover page of the Saguaro Star, were reappointed to another term. The next regular BOD meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2012 and will be held in the Board Room of the recently opened new Mercedes-Benz of Tucson dealership.



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CHAPARRAL MEMBER SURVEY

Fred Finney

In August, a survey was electronically sent to all members to gauge the interest level in three categories of activities, Auto/Driver Training, Driving Events and Social Events. Eight surveys were returned from the group of 70 members who have their email address listed with the Section. After tabulating the results, it was encouraging to see those categories which rated a high interest level were pretty much in sync with the type of events the Board has been scheduling over the last few years.

The driving activities which rated high in interest level were technical sessions, technical inspections, day drives, and car shows. Social activities at local destinations such as restaurant stops and dealership

events also showed high interest level. Defensive Driving rated a medium interest level, and surprisingly, Teen Driver Training rated almost no interest. A write-in comment requested 2-day driving events with an overnight stay.

We had hoped for a much stronger response from the membership, but perhaps this roughly 10% sampling indicates that we are generally on the right track with the type of events being scheduled. And remember, those of us on the Board of Director are always open to ideas and suggestions from members regarding activities they would like to see. And we may even ask for your help in setting these up.

September 2011 The StarDust [reprinted with permission]

President's Message:

I am very pleased to announce to our Members that the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, and their Board Of Directors has given The Desert Stars the go-ahead to host StarFest 2012. The date has been set for September 28th through October 3rd. Our premier anchor hotel will be the Arizona Biltmore. The Biltmore has given The Mercedes-Benz Club special discounts on all amenities, which are nearly half off the normal price this time of year. StarFest would be a perfect end of summer get-away in our own back yard! No airports (TSA), no long drives. Just sit back and enjoy millions of dollars in Mercedes automobiles, and a million dollar view!

The Concours d'Elegance will be held for two days on the Biltmore's perfectly manicured lawns with a view of the mountains in the background. The driving events will be held at Firebird raceway, home of the NHRA Nationals, NAPA Auto Parts World Final Hydro-Boat races, Redline Track Challenge and not to mention the Volkswagen Club's, Bug O'Rama. Both the Concours and track activities are but a sample of what will be going on during these six, very busy days of StarFest.

There will be restoration and automotive seminars, guest speakers, day trips and media attention just to name a few. In the coming weeks www.starfest2012.com will go live and we will give members up-to-date information on all things StarFest. We are speaking with other people such as AMG and MBUSA to complement StarFest to gather as much attention as possible.

Although we are over a year away there is much that has to be done. I would like to take this opportunity to rally the troops, and ask for your help. We need members that would like to help out in any area. Whether you're a Graphic Artist (or just really good at Photoshop), would like to be a Concours Judge (we will train you!) or just want to pick up cones at the driving event, I can use your help. If you have any ideas or have an expertise in an area that you think can help in planning this event, please give me a call. All I can promise you is a front row seat at what will be the premier Mercedes Benz event for years to come.

Bud Cloninger, President
Desert Stars Section

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2011 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Host-Contact
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
January 27-28, 2012	18 th Annual Collector Car Show	Bill Hooper

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A Mercedes-Benz Safety Statement

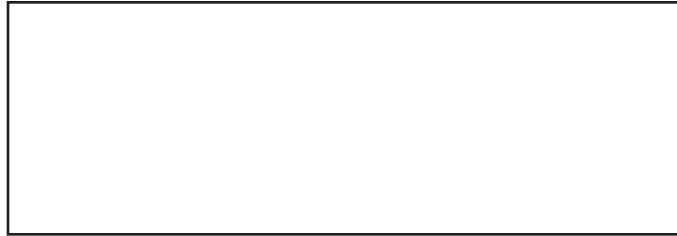
After a wonderful Sunday morning breakfast in Las Cruces, NM, we departed for home in Tucson, AZ, driving our 2008 C300 Sport. About 2 miles west of Wilcox, AZ, I saw something in the road and tried to miss it, but hit it at 80mph. Within a minute the TPMS in the control center was flashing red and the warning alert was dinging. But, before I could pull over, the car started to rattle (like those little rumble strips on the side of the Interstate) and then something just let loose. I stopped the car dead straight with no pulling at all. The bad news, the only thing left on the right front wheel was about an inch of the 2 side walls. There was no damage in the fenderwell thanks to the clean Mercedes-Benz wheel well design, but there were few rubber marks where the tire passed under the car.

Fortunately, the spare had plenty of air and we made it home without further incident.

Michael & Mary Turner



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