



November-December

The StarDust

DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

Holiday Party Dec 8, 2024



The holidays will be here before we know it. Clear the 8th of December for the Desert Stars Annual Holiday Party - with the always-important Member Anniversary recognition celebration. It is time to reflect on 2024 as we spend time with friends and fellow members catch up and enjoy the spirit of the holidays.

The event will be at the Grayhawk Golf Club in the Fairway House. There will be a no-host bar. The food at Grayhawk Golf Club never disappoints.

Anniversary celebrants must attend to receive your recognition pins (or you need a *really* good excuse for not being there!) So, we want to see you! List of anniversary recipients can be found on page 8

Oh, don't forget we are collecting for Toys for Tots so please bring an un-wrapped gift! Make this holiday season a special one by joining your friends in the Desert Stars Mercedes-Benz club.

Festivities will begin at noon. Registration form is on page 15

Debbie Ichiyama

The **Holiday Gift Exchange** (*Emphasis on Exchange*) Continues for 2024....

The fun and excitement continues for this year's holiday party. Now in its second year, we will continue with a "Holiday Gift Exchange" event. Introduced at the 2023 event, this new twist on holiday gifting proved to be both exciting and engaging for both participants and guests. If you would like to participate, all you need to do is bring a wrapped gift with a \$25 - \$30 value. You can participate as a couple or individually, it is completely up to you. The gift can be something Mercedes Benz themed, automotive themed, holiday themed, or even a bottle of wine or spirits. It is your choice on what you wish to bring as a gift. Be sure the gift is wrapped when you come to the party to be eligible to participate! This holiday gift "exchange" makes for some holiday excitement and cheer. Look forward to seeing you at this year's event.

Ed & Annette Crawford

President's Message

By Debbie Ichiyama

Another year has gone by and what a great year it has been for the Desert Stars. We have had some fantastic events, created a lot of memories and made new friends. Next year promises to be as good if not better.

I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party (details in the Newsletter); it is a great opportunity to recap the year and get a preview of what is coming up for next year and mingle with your fellow members.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all the new members who joined our family of club members this past year. It has been great to see new folks coming out to events and getting to meet them.



Nov Dec 2024
Volume 60 Number 6
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Welcome our new Members!

August

Maggie Buffalin
Craig Crouch
Max Euchenhofer
Kristifer Capps

Sept

Johnny Griffith
James Christiansen

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

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Under the Stars with Desert Stars



Ed & Annette Crawford – Holiday Planners

We are once again planning an evening under the stars at the Desert Botanical Gardens for an evening at “Los Noches de las luminarias” on December 14, 2024.

Join fellow members at the enjoy a night filled with sparkling luminaria-lit trails and twinkling holiday lights. Musical performances, entertainment and festive food and drinks are available for purchase to add to a picture-perfect night.

The cost is \$50.00 per person. Please note this event is space-limited (up to 24 people) and RSVP is required. Please register and pay no later than November 22, 2024. Note the admittance timing is currently TBD, however we are targeting the time slot of 6:00PM allowing members time to enjoy a meal prior to or after the outing.

Additional Information about the evening:

- Parking is complimentary. Please allow extra time to park and enter at your designated time.
- Food and beverage options are available for purchase. Advanced reservations are recommended for Gertrude’s restaurant.
- Bars offering a variety of holiday drinks are available throughout the Garden and accept debit and credit only.
- The Garden Shop is open until 10 p.m. If you are Desert Botanical Garden Members you can receive a 10% discount upon presentation of a valid Membership card at checkout.
- Electric scooters and wheelchairs can be rented at the SRP Visitor Center on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Looking forward to sharing some holiday cheer with fellow members while strolling the luminaria-lit paths and trails of the Desert Botanical Gardens.

Registration form is on page 15

Website

Please go to the new website mbca.org and confirm all information is correct including your cars, add your significant other (if they are not already listed) and all contact info. If you have not yet registered for the site please do so now.

Need help in logging in? Send an email to info@mbca.org or contact the National Business Office at Tues-Thurs: 9 am - 3 pm MT, phone: 719-633-6427.

“Spelunkers” Ruled the Day at Havasupai’24

By Chuck and Ava Stanford

One of Arizona’s most spectacular natural attractions played host to the Desert Stars during the weekend of October 4-6. Adventurous members and guests visited the world-famous Kartchner Caverns State Park as part of the Section’s annual **Havasupai ‘24** fall rallye. And what a cave tour it was!

The Embassy Suites Hotel in the Tucson Foothills was a comfortable and hospitable gathering place for members who met on Friday nite to renew friendships and meet new members. For at least three couples, this was their first rallye event, and they received a warm welcome! We all enjoyed refreshments and snacks as we shared tips and planned driving strategy.

The Saturday morning rallye took participants through Tucson and past the 2600-acre US Military storage yard where they were able to see some of the 4000 military aircraft in dry storage and available for regeneration. Simply an amazing sight! Then it was on to Sonoita and Elgin, though Arizona Wine country, and arriving at Kartchner Caverns State Park where all enjoyed lunch from the Bat Cave Café before embarking on the journey into the cave. What an interesting tour inside the mountain to view the fascinating and colorful mineral formations that have been millions of years in the making.

Back at the hotel, our Saturday evening awards banquet made sure that all attendees were rewarded with cool prizes. The more competitive among us also earned traditional kachina dolls, awarded to those teams that best matched wits with the rallyemasters. When the scores were tallied, third place went to the team of **Ron and Rhonda Borino**. Second place was earned by perennial competitors **John and Marriane Hutchison**. First place went to **David Cesal** with his “Arizona Wildcat” daughter **Cate** (a rallye first-timer). Congratulations to all the participants!

Many thanks to all who came along for the fun and experienced the not-so-hidden majesty of *Kartchner’s Throne Room and Rotunda*. We all enjoyed the weekend and took home memories of a surprisingly beautiful and welcoming part of Arizona! We’ll be back visiting again soon!



Happy Hour at the Hotel



Kickoff meeting



The Start of a Great Day



Rallymasters Chuck & Ava Stanford



David & Cate Cesal



Douglas & Pam Bryson



Terry & Katherine Coult



Harman & Susan Cadis



Mindy & Dick Sharp



Jim & Barb Boyle



Rich Schulte & Donna Willemsen
November-December 2024



Debbie & Mark Ichiyama



Crystal & Brain Loveless



Tracy Garvey & Craig Crouch



Ron & Rhonda Borino



John & Marianne Hutchison



Rich & Yvonne Leamon



Donna Brwon & Elaine Caporusso



Jim & Yvonne Reynolds



Some of the many planes at Davis-Monthan AFB



The Banquet





Gift Tables



1st place winners David & Cate Cesal



2nd place winners Marianne & John Hutchison



3rd place winners Rhonda & Ron Borino

November-December 2024

Anniversary Recipients

50 Years

Walt Anderson

40 Years

Ron Barzen

John Hutchison

35 Years

WC Kaesche

30 Years

Orester Harper

Kenny Hasanoff

25 Years

LK Green

20 Years

Iren Ackalitis

William Bergner

David Gronsky

Brian Imdieke

Kris Pathuis

Artemis Shamamian

Tim Wiseman

15 Years

Kyle Bybee

Matthew Crawford

Andrew Flynn

Ralph Goldenberg

Mark Ichiyama

John Phin

Michael Spellman

Bob Young

10 Years

Richard Alsager

Steve Baker

John Berquist

Grant Crane

Michael Fegley

Elliott Gardner

Tom Gregory

Sascha Janssen

Michael Murphy

Christopher Pagnini

Ruchir Patel

Mary Peterson

Tom Read

Peter Riefenhauser

John Truttman

Robert Waldrop

Reinhard Zorko

5 Years

Kurt Anderson

Dean Brayton

David Cesal

Ed Crawford

Charles Kaye

Jason Meyer

Russell Rahn

Ronald Reitman

Gary Smith

David Tobison

Mark Vogel

Oktoberfest

By Debbie Ichiyama

On a beautiful Saturday in October, Desert Star members and guests met at Kim and David Cesal's home at the Phoenix Country Club, where the German inspired festivities were held.

The theme was Brats, Beer & Benz. We enjoyed a Bratwurst barbecue with all the trimmings. Members brought their cars for a car show and got to test their knowledge of Mercedes Benz trivia and compete at lawn Games. Winners included Donna Brown for the car drawing and also for the putting contest. Marianne Hutchison won the Cornhole contest and Nancy Kuhn the Trivia contest. Congratulations to all.

It was great to catch up with friends and meet new members.

A special Thank you to David Cesal for hosting the event.



The food was delicious.



Brynn Burton, Katherine Count and Tracey Garvey trying their hands at Cornhole Toss

Sponsor Spotlight – Team Tino

In this edition of Sponsor Spotlight” for 2024, we look inside the doors of Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale. Located at 4725 North Scottsdale Road, Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale is just a few minutes northeast of Fashion Square Mall.

Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale is owned and operated by Chuck and Anita Theisen. Chuck attended Scottsdale Saguaro High School and has been in the automotive sales industry of over 45 years. Chuck and Anita new facility opened in early May of 2014. Today, we talk with Tino Ferrulli, Scottsdale Sales Leader, who has worked for the dealership for 31 years, and is a long-time supporter / partner with MBCA Desert Stars.

Q: Tino, tell us more about your role at Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale.

A: I have had a few roles here, however, my long-time position is as their Top Producing Sales Rep for 27 years straight, and the local “ambassador” for Mercedes-Benz as many of my clients want to refer to me as.

Q: Who makes Team Tino and what is the teams’ goal when a potential or repeat customer enters the doors?

A: The team is comprised of myself, my sales assistant Shawnee Fields, my Service Advisor, Steve Kwasny, and his team of Master Certified Technicians. Our goal is to build “Customers for Life. In many cases, we are now selling to the third generation of some families, and that is remarkable! We want our new clients and referrals to leave here feeling like they have made new friends, and that the purchasing experience was the easiest car buying process that they have ever been involved in.

Q: Were there any unique considerations that were part of the planning and design of the new facility compared to the prior facility?

A: The main emphasis was to be Environmentally Conscious, open air in feeling, and most of all, comfortable for our clients. The real advantage in our new facility is being able to store and show 218 vehicles indoors. That is a tremendous advantage when the heat rises above 100 degrees, which is the case for more than 5 months of the year.

Q: Knowing you cross paths with thousands of vehicles each year at Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale, are there any that have created lasting impressions?

A: The GT is my favorite. It is a comfortable sports car for both long or short trips. And, with many other sports cars, you are penalized for driving them, especially if driven more than 1,000 miles per year (resulting in reduced future value). Our SUV’s, however, have become our staple products for many walks of life.

Q: Any MBCA / Desert Stars events which are special for you and the staff?

A: I always enjoy your car show. It is interesting to see how your members vote, and the great turnout that you always have. It would be great to get non Mercedes-Benz people over to see how well, and how long, these cars can provide joy and happiness. These are timeless machines. Very unusual by today’s standards.

Q: Tell us more about yourself, your family, or the staff, and what your passions are away from the dealership and daily schedule?

A: My wife and I have 4 caring, and kind children. All are lovers of cars, and especially Mercedes Benz. My wife Shelly was a hospice nurse for 20 years and now runs our Podiatry Clinic called On The Move Podiatry in North Phoenix and is the most caring giving woman that I have ever met. My passion outside of work is flying. I truly enjoy being up high and taking in all of God's beauty. I am also a volunteer pilot for Flights for Life, and Angel Flight. It is my opportunity to give back, and that is what life is all about. My patients are predominantly cancer patients for the most part that I get to participate in many times, life-saving events through treatment.

Q: Anything else you want the Desert Stars members to know?

A: Just that we have a Mutual Respect for all that MBCA Desert Stars does. If they contact me directly, and let me know that they are members, we will always extend great no-hassle-pricing to them, and make it the easiest buying process ever. I can be reached at Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale at (480) 748-4810, or via email at tinoferrulli@gmail.com.

Other ways you can check out Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale:

Web: <https://www.mbscottsdale.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MBofScottsdale>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/mbscottsdale>

Thanks to Chuck, Anita, Tino, and all the staff at Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale for your continued support of MBCA and Desert Stars!

Celebrating 30 Years!

Congratulations to Tino Ferrulli on his remarkable accomplishment of 30 years with Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale. On behalf of Team Tino, thank you for your business. Our team is dedicated to providing you with the best-in-class customer experience and we look forward to assisting you in the future. Stop by and let's see what we can do for you.

2023 AMG G 63

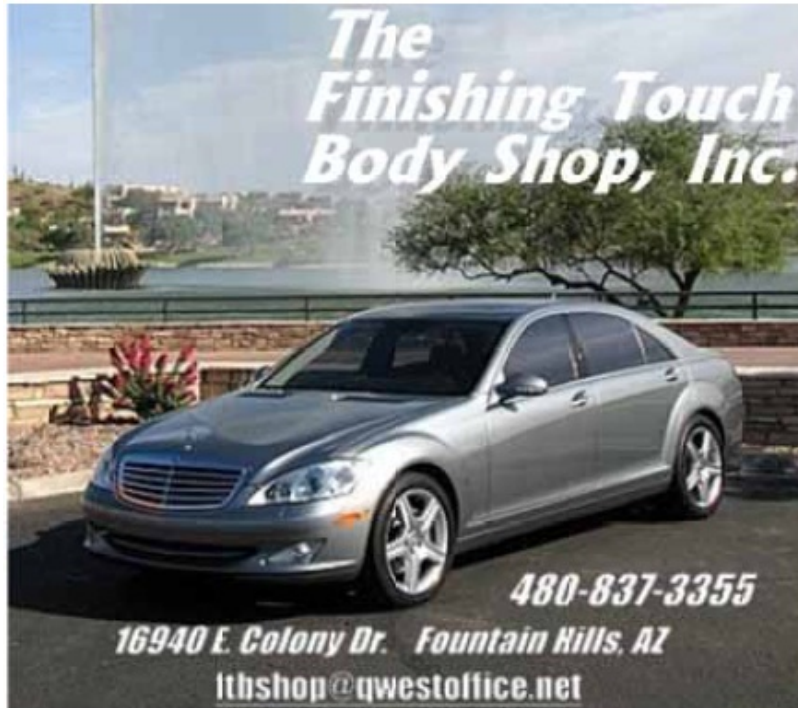
Mercedes-Benz

Team Tino Ferrulli

480-748-4810

tinoferrulli@gmail.com
Mercedes-Benz of Scottsdale
4725 North Scottsdale Road • Scottsdale, AZ

Tino Ferrulli



On the left
Our host David Cesal reading
the Trivia questions



On the right
Marianne Hutchison winner of
the Cornhole Contest



Donna Brown winner for favorite car



Nancy Kuhn winner of the
Trivia Contest



Donna Brown winner of the Putting
Contest

Mark your Calendar for the January 19th Arizona Concours d'Elegance

By Chuck Stanford

The Arizona Concours is an acclaimed showcase of 100 rare, classic and historic automobiles and motorcycles, presented in the luxury atmosphere of a stylish garden party. Period costumes representing various automotive eras are encouraged and rewarded for spectators and participants. *The Art of Automotive Engineering* was chosen as the theme for this seventh edition of the Arizona Concours, which is presented in partnership with Scottsdale Arts, the organization responsible for an array of artistic services in the city. The exhibition is held at the Scottsdale Civic Center in Oldtown Scottsdale.

A curated and judged exhibition of the world's finest collector cars, the Arizona Concours d'Elegance is a celebration of automotive engineering and design held every January. A point of pride for the region's car community, the non-profit event supports the arts and local artists, as well as Make-A-Wish® Arizona. Tickets are available on the event website at ArizonaConcours.org or at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts box office.



2024 Arizona Concours



Best of Show 2024

post-war (1973 Lamborghini Miura) and pre-war (1932 Alfa Romeo 8C-2300 LeMans)

November-December 2024

Any volunteers out there to put together some weekend drives? These might be fun and could give members a chance to plan a trip event that could include a lunch or a stay over at one of these destinations. The board will provide all the assistance you need. If you are interested in helping to plan an event/drive, please contact Debbie dichiyama@me.com or Ron at advertising@desertstars.club

**WORTHY
CRUISES**

Sedona & Oak Creek Canyon

- Phoenix to Sedona: 116 miles
- Sedona to end of Highway 89A: 25 miles

Payson & Mogollon Rim

- Phoenix to Payson: 90 miles
- Payson to Mogollon Rim: 29 miles
- Rim Road Drive: 51 miles

Flagstaff

- Phoenix to Flagstaff: 145 miles

Prescot National Forest

- Phoenix to Prescott: 99 miles
- Prescott to Jerome: 35 miles

Mount Lemmon

- Phoenix to Tucson: 113 miles
- Catalina Foothills to Marshall Gulch: 26 miles

White Mountains

- Phoenix to Hon-Dah: 188 miles
- Hon-Dah to Eager: 37 miles

NEAR PHOENIX

please drive safely

Holiday Party

Please register and pay by December 2, 2024

Name(s) Registering: _____ Number Attending: _____

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

Registration Fee is \$75 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

Under the Stars

Please register and pay by Nov 22, 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:

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Credit Card payments available: Call Debbie Ichiyama at (808) 282-5249

Local Car Culture

Concours in the Hills

Benefitting Phoenix Childrens Foundation

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February 15, 2025 10am to 3pm

Highline Autos Cars & Coffee

7:30 – 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every month.

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Alpio's @ TROON

Car's & COFFEE at Pinnacle Peak

7:00 – 10:00 am on the second Saturday of every month.

10452 East Jomax

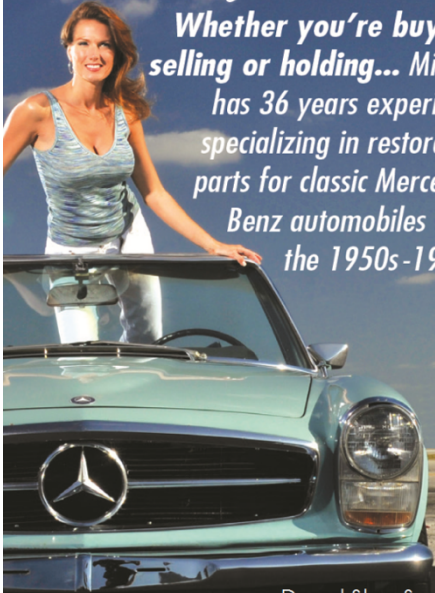
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Looking for a great automotive museum check this out.


<https://automotivemuseumguide.com>

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Help Wanted

The Desert Stars is looking for an Activities Director. If you have time and would like to have a little fun with a challenge contact Debbie Ichiyama for information on the following position:

The Activity Director oversees and coordinates chapter activities such as drives, dining events, tours, outings, picnics, dealer events, etc. The focus should be assisting in creating activities that enhance participants' appreciation of their vehicles, enrich their lives, and create camaraderie of members. Specifically, an activity director's duties may include:

- Maintaining a calendar of activities and effectively communicating it to participants.
- Coordinating and communicating with the board and members.
- Ensuring that participants follow all safety protocols.
- Submitting budgetary recommendations for events as required.

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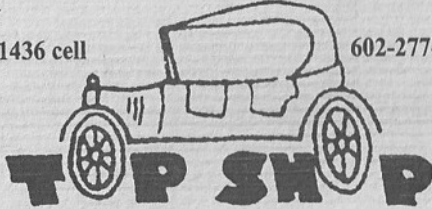
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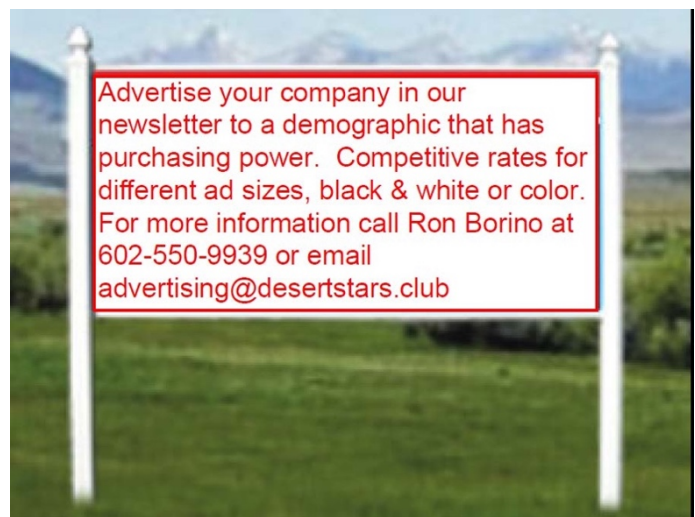
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Nostalgic Driving Experience

By Walter Laimer
Managing Director Nostalgic Driving Experience • Mercedes-Benz Classic Car Travel

Fueled by a love for France and inspired by members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Nostalgic Classic Car Travel, a valued partner of Mercedes-Benz, has curated a remarkable European adventure: Provence & Côte d'Azur: Lavender and Jet Set. This exclusive tour is initially available to MBCA members as a gesture of appreciation, inviting them to enjoy the unforgettable thrill of driving a classic Mercedes-Benz SL through the picturesque landscapes of Provence. The experience also includes special dinners and a guided extension from Nice to Monaco.

For many, driving a classic Mercedes-Benz SL holds cherished memories, but few have had the opportunity to do so abroad—much less in Europe. With Nostalgic's Classic Car Travel, you can take the wheel of a meticulously maintained, chrome-polished SL and cruise along scenic routes overlooking stunning vistas, vibrant lavender fields, and breathtaking mountain views. Immerse yourself in the heart of French culture while enjoying a cinematic driving experience. Join Nostalgic in June to celebrate the Mercedes-Benz legacy and embrace the open roads awaiting you.

<https://www.mercedes-benz.com/en/art-and-culture/events-and-exhibitions/classic-car-travel/>



Cars and Hotel from a previous trip



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MBofNorthScottsdale.com

A **PENSKE** AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP



2024 CALENDAR

R1	 29 FEB-02 MAR BAHRAIN SAKHIR	R13	 19-21 JUL HUNGARY BUDAPEST
R2	 07-09 MAR SAUDI ARABIA JEDDAH	R14	 26-28 JUL BELGIUM SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS
R3	 22-24 MAR AUSTRALIA MELBOURNE	R15	 23-25 AUG NETHERLANDS ZANDVOORT
R4	 05-07 APR JAPAN SUZUKA	R16	 30 AUG-01 SEP ITALY MONZA
R5	 19-21 APR CHINA SHANGHAI	R17	 13-15 SEP AZERBAIJAN BAKU
R6	 03-05 MAY MIAMI MIAMI	R18	 20-22 SEP SINGAPORE SINGAPORE
R7	 17-19 MAY EMILIA ROMAGNA IMOLA	R19	 18-20 OCT USA AUSTIN
R8	 24-26 MAY MONACO MONACO	R20	 25-27 OCT MEXICO MEXICO CITY
R9	 07-09 JUN CANADA MONTREAL	R21	 01-03 NOV BRAZIL SAO PAULO
R10	 21-23 JUN SPAIN BARCELONA	R22	 21-23 NOV LAS VEGAS LAS VEGAS
R11	 28-30 JUN AUSTRIA SPIELBERG	R23	 29 NOV-01 DEC QATAR LUSAIL
R12	 05-07 JUL UNITED KINGDOM SILVERSTONE	R24	 06-08 DEC ABU DHABI YAS MARINA





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SAVE THESE DATES

Dec 8	Sun	Holiday Party
Dec 14	Sat	Holiday Lights Tour
April 26-28	Sat-Sun	M-BEAT
Date TBD (March)		MB Enthusiasts Dinner

<https://www.mbca.org/section/desert-stars>

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