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Presented by the Chaparral Section, Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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August — October 2015 Issue

Inside This Issue:

<i>I can't believe I walked away</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>President's Message</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Mystery Drive 2015</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Mercedes Benz Tucson</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Event Calendar</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>Upcoming Event Summary</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Passport to Adventure</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Meet Our Board Member</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Continued..</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>Autohaus</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Our Board Members 2015</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
<i>Our Trusted Vendors</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
<i>New Members /Vanderpool</i>	<i>Page 13</i>
<i>Group One / Club Rates</i>	<i>Page 14</i>



1969 280 SE Convertible



This beautiful emblem is recognized in every corner of the world. Many associate it with luxury, class, status, state of the art engineering, quality, longevity, design, the list goes on not to take that away, one of the more important features about MB is SAFETY! While browsing the internet looking for feedback from everyday MB owners I found the following statements to be the most powerful why owning a Mercedes Benz is more than just status.

- **“I can’t believe we walked away”**
- “The fireman told me “if you can live through that than I want my wife driving that car”
- “I truly believe I owe that car my life and my daughter’s life”
- “I decided I would never drive a car unless it was a Mercedes. The Police told me I would have been dead in any other car”
- “The car absorbed all the force. It saved our lives”
- “I feel so strongly about it, it’s not just a pretty car, it will also save your life”
- “Everyone told me that it was our car that saved us, both insurance Companies, the police, the people in the ambulance. That specific car is the reason we walked away”
- “We’ve always been very loyal Mercedes customers and after this accident we will never consider anything but a Mercedes Benz”

These were just a few of the comments by Steve Cannon, Vice President MB USA that he heard from MB owners over and over. I hope you never have an experience of this kind in your beloved Mercedes Benz but it is sure good to know you are in a safe car.

ENJOY THE RIDE!!
Jutta Lunario
Editor



2010 E 350 CGI



Mike Zonnefeld
President
520.749.3575
MikeZonn@aol.com

Lynn Davison
Vice President/
Events Coordinator
520.885.6669
crackerdog@cox.net

Beverly Maddalone
Secretary
732.485.2005
Bmadd732@att.net

Michael Cooper
Treasurer
520.326.9733
Michael_31475@msn.com

Jerry Tucker
Director
520.529.1978
jerry@tuckerhome.us

Ed Gladish
Director
520.577.8621
E.gladish@comcast.net

Kenneth George
Director/Advertising
520.408.7255
kagandegg@q.com

Mike Bailey
Director
520.591.4789
jammerkiller@earthlink.net

Michael Turner
Director
520.743.3437
mrmgtturner@earthlink.net

Jutta Lunario
Director/Newsletter Editor
520.780.9339
jutta@juttalunario.com

Steve Ross
Regional Director
619.508.3925
inewsx@sbcglobal.net



President's Message

Mike Zonnefeld
President,
Chaparral Section, MBCA

Well our summer is over, and with that, we start another season of wonderful Chaparral Section activities! Car shows, mystery dine and drive, overnight outings, holiday season parties, and a new Arizona driving event! Is it any wonder that our club has grown so much in the past few years? We now number over 115 members and growing!

When I recently acquired another 560SL, I decided to research the company and now am even more impressed with the history of a company that has produced the worlds finest automobiles, in spite of being devastated by two wars that nearly completely destroyed their facilities! The three pointed star marquee represents the very best in quality, outstanding management, perseverance and a complete dedication to high quality performance, appearance and safety! The older models retain their classic appeal, and the newer ones the height of automobile performance and design.

Our Section is one of the most active ones in the MBCA organization, and we can hold our club high compared to others! Our events are exciting, the members outstanding, and of course our Mercedes automobiles are among the best.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our season events, and welcome you to attend our monthly board meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 PM in Tucson Mercedes conference room.

Drive safely and enjoy your Mercedes!

Mike Zonnefeld
President





Another Mystery Drive has been solved!!

On Sept 19, 2015 at approximately high noon, 18 Chaparral section members met at the starting point for the Mystery Drive and Dine, which was at the Denny's restaurant on W. Ina Road in Tucson, AZ. These members were given precise, written directions to mark their journey on a scenic drive through a favorite Southwestern Tucson road course. This 45 minute/25 mile drive took them onto Picture Rocks Road and lead them down through Sandario Road, to a hidden, yet scenic two-lane road which goes by the Tucson Mountain District Visitor Center. Once back on "civilized roads", the directions (once again) led the group through a very popular twisty road behind the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. After making a quick right turn, the group was on their way to the final destination, J.J. Coopers Diner and Ice Cream Shoppe! Once there, the group was treated to a variety of popular 50's style eats, with some new-style entrees as well. The first 3 couples to arrive were even presented with a \$10 gift certificate from the owners of the diner. It's also important to note that the group had 3 new members and their spouses present, who were on their first event with the Chaparral section. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the company, the local hospitality, and the great food and ice cream.



Gathering to begin the Drive



Destination—Watering Hole



Delicious food and a cold ice tea, yummy



Mike Zonnefeld— Thanking the participants



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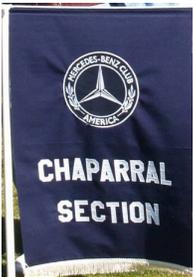
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Mercedes-Benz





Upcoming Events 2025/16

Date	Event	Host/Contact
September 19, 2015	Mystery Dine & Drive	Mike Bailey/Tracy Long
October 3, 2015	Run to Pinetop	Jerry Tucker/Ed Gladish
October 17, 2015	Tucson Classics Car Show	Jerry Tucker/Mike Cooper
November 7, 2015	Tanque Verde Guest Ranch BBQ	Beverly Maddalone
December 5, 2015	Holiday Party	Ed Gladish
December 12, 2015	Cars & Coffee/ Toys for Tots	Lynn Davison
January, 2016	Tucson Rally	Tracy Long
January 30, 2016	Tubac Car Show	Mike Cooper
February, 2016*	Sweetheart Mixer	Beverly Maddalone
March 2016*	DM 50 Car Show	Lynn Davison
Summary of upcoming events next page please		

***Please check the Chaparral Section website for the most current information and updates concerning these events and all other section activities.
www.tucsonmercedesclub.org***

*Further information to be announced

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Upcoming Events Summary

Do you like murder mysteries? Can you follow directions? No murder here, unless there's a nasty altercation between driver and navigator, but if you follow the directions that Tracy Long and Mike Bailey provide, you'll see some mighty fine desert scenery and end up at a nice restaurant for some Chaparral Section camaraderie. ([September 19 Mystery Dine and Drive](#))

Our Run to Pinetop on the weekend of October 3 and 4 will be a great opportunity to visit some of the sites of Chaparral Section's AZ Passport event as well as enjoy the hospitality of Ed Gladish and Jerry Tucker in the White Mountain town of Pinetop. You'll be close to many of the sites for our big event launching October 1. ([October 3 Run to Pinetop](#))

The Tucson Classics Car Show is the biggest and best car show of the year in Tucson. Besides the opportunity to show off your shiny MB wheels, you can view several hundred of the nicest cars in town while supporting the Tucson Rotary Club's major fund raiser of the year. ([October 17 Tucson Classics Car Show](#))

Everyone loves to go to the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch, but we've never been there in the evening for their chuck wagon BBQ. ([November 7 Tanque Verde Guest Ranch BBQ](#))

The Mountain Oyster Club is always a classy venue for a party, but this year there's a twist: We're going for lunch, with a preceding non judged car show. This is our annual members meeting and holiday party. ([December 5 Holiday Party](#))

Remember the cold and rain at last year's December Cars and Coffee? Yes, it certainly was cold and rainy, but this year we'll again have a benefit for Toys for Tots, and we're hoping for Tucson sunshine. ([December 12 Cars and Coffee/Toys for Tots](#))

Tracy Long promises to get us acquainted better with our hometown. She's planned a rally around town to find the answers to all those questions about the Old Pueblo you didn't know to ask. Lunch and prizes will follow. ([January Tucson Rally](#))

Rain was on the menu for the Tubac Car Show last year. Hopefully the golf course at Tubac Country Club will be dry enough to permit car parking for their annual show this year. ([January 30 Tubac Car Show](#))





Ready...Set...Go!

Chaparral Section's Passport to Adventure in Arizona

The Chaparral Section is launching a new initiative just in time for the return of cooler temps and the fall driving season. It is open to all MBCA members and associate members, and especially the Chaparral Section and our winter "snowbird" MBCA members who may be visiting Arizona for an extended stay. We have named our new initiative, **Chaparral Section's Passport to Adventure in Arizona (CS-PAAZ)**

The CS-PAAZ is a self-guided driving program and NOT a competition. It's designed to get all our members out on the Arizona highways and byways driving their vehicles, and experiencing our amazing state. We have selected 32 points of interest that highlight each region of Arizona, five of which are off paved roads that we are calling Optional *Extreme* Destinations.

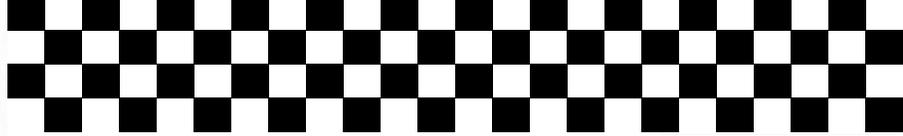
Here is how it works. Somewhat like a US Passport, after registration with the Administrator we will supply each participant via email with **1) an AZ Passport pamphlet** containing pertinent details about each destination, along with **2) a copy of the AZ Passport rules**.

Participants have two years from October 1, 2015, to complete their passports by driving to 12 of the 32 destinations, taking a photo which includes; 1) signage indicating the name/location of the destination, 2) date stamp, 3) M-B Tri-Star or MBCA logo, and 4) a selfie. Email your digital photo to the CS-PAAZ administrator or print it and bring it to a Section event, or Cars and Coffee at AJ's. The CS-PAAZ administrator will validate your photo and even stamp your AZ Passport pamphlet.

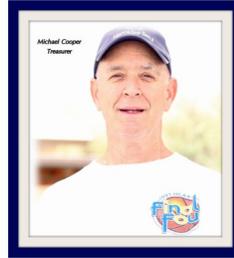
In addition, the Chaparral Section is committed to planning at least two Section events a year that will include one or more of the PAAZ destinations. Once you have registered with the CS-PAAZ administrator, you will be requested to obtain a DVD or a USB flash drive on which to record your photos. If you are a traditionalist, a classic 35mm photo camera will work fine, too. The only cost to you is for the DVD, USB flash drive or film. Your Mercedes is the preferred vehicle for these drives; however, it is not mandatory that you drive your Mercedes on all 12 drives, especially for the off-road destinations.

That's all there is to it. We plan to officially launch this program on October 1, 2015 in conjunction with our Section's "Run to Pines" weekend event in Pinetop, AZ. If you have any questions, please contact Beverly Maddalone, Administrator, at bmadd732@att.net or 520-290-4538.





Meet our Board Member Michael 'Coop' Cooper



A little about myself. I was born in California and came to Tucson with my family in 1952 because my Dad was hired to be the head Track and Field coach as well as the head Freshman Football coach at the U of A, so I grew up being a Wildcat (I have had season tickets for both football and basketball since the late '70s). I graduated from the U of A in 1970 from the College of Agriculture with a degree in Animal Science. After I graduated, I worked for Arizona Feeds for three years as a Management Trainee, then I went to Tucson Gas and Electric, which later became Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP), and I was in middle Management for 26 years until I retired in 1999.

During my adult life, I traveled to Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Italy as well as visiting the major cities throughout the United States. I was on the Board of Directors for the Ronald McDonald House for 14 years; a Chapter Advisor and the Building Corporation's Treasurer, Facilities Manager and Board of Director for my fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, for over 25 years. I am currently a volunteer for the Tucson Wild Life Center, Friends of the Pima County Library and President of my home owners association. I also have a plot in the Rincon Mountain Community Garden of Tucson.

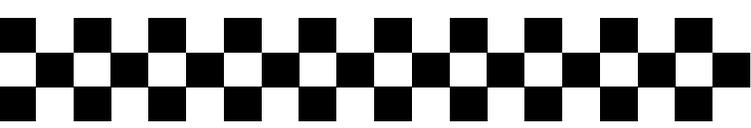
How I obtained my Mercedes. Back in April of 1999, my Chevy Blazer was stolen while I was having dinner at a restaurant. After this ugly event, I started the process of purchasing a new vehicle. Then all of the sudden one morning about a week later, I received a phone call from the City of Tucson Police Department advising me that they recovered my stolen Blazer.

[Bio continued following page....](#)



Coop won 2nd Place at the Bisbee Car Show April 2014 with his 1980 Mer-





Meet our Board Member continued..

A good friend told me that I needed to give myself a “present” since my Blazer was now found. Well I always wanted a MG convertible so I found one in the want ads section in the newspaper and test drove it. Because I was too big to fit into the front seat making it very uncomfortable to sit in, the front window was way too close to my face and my feet were too big to push the clutch and brake pedals making shifting and breaking very scary. So after that experience of that test drive, I did not pursue the purchase of any more MGs.

Because I always wanted a convertible, and knowing that Mercedes made a convertible model, I again started looking into the want ads in the newspaper. I had no idea what the Mercedes model was for a convertible so I just started calling any seller who had a Mercedes for sale. After quite a few calls, finally a person that I had called said he did not have a convertible but his dad had one, which was for sale. I then purchased his 1980 280 SL which was shipped from Bremerhaven, Germany to Houston, TX in March of 1986 and so now I have very roomy and comfortable convertible.

I became a member of MBCA around 2000 but because of the inactivity of this club at that time, I quit about a year later. Around March of 2004, Fred Finney, who was the Club’s Treasures and who was my Vice President at TEP, called me and asked me to come to a Chaparral Section Board meeting. Well not only was I asked to be a Board member but I was also asked to be their new Secretary, which I was until January of 2015 when Fred and I exchanged positions – Fred became the new Secretary and I became the new Treasurer.



**Today’s vocabulary
‘A-pillar’
is
the roof support on either side of a cars windshield.**



SLR McLaren



Ever noticed anyone going slower than you is an idiot and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?!



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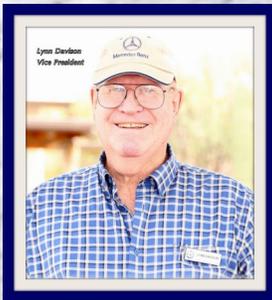
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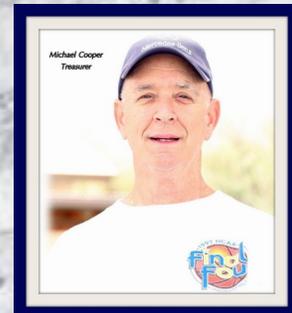
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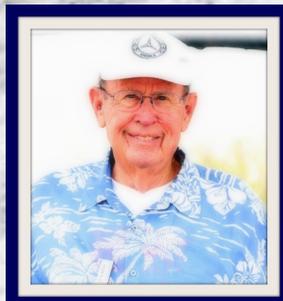
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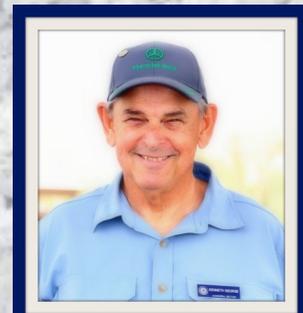
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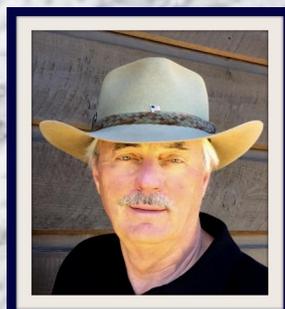
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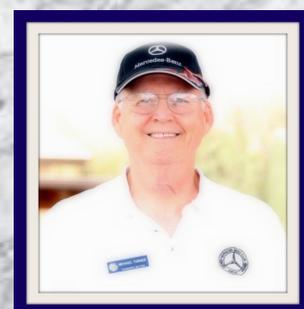
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Welcome! New Members

Gordon Reay -
Scott Leather -
George Anderson-

Tucson, AZ June 23, 2015
Tucson, AZ July 10, 2015
Oro Valley, AZ August 8, 2015

We are looking forward to meet you at our events!

FOR SALE

1982 380SL, 95,000 Miles, \$12,000

A/C ice cold, All scheduled maintenance, All records, Always garaged, Excellent condition, Fully loaded with all the goodies, Looks & drives great, Must see, Non-smoker, Seats like new, Title in hand, Upgraded sound system, Very clean interior, Well maintained.

The car was initially purchased by a German doctor in January, 1982, and acquired from his widow by the current owner, Dick Chapman, a Chaparral Section member and retired U.S. Army Colonel, in May, 1985. The car was driven in Germany by the current owner, then imported to the USA in 1987 through the port of Houston. All required DOT mods were made at the port of entry. The car was first registered in the USA in South Carolina, then later in Colorado Springs, and finally in Tucson, AZ, where it has been meticulously cared for since 2002.

Included in the sale is a manual lift for the hardtop, a garage dust-cover, the Blaupunkt audio system, a cockpit cover and a front "German" license plate.

For more information or to arrange to see this car please call Fred Finney at [520-297-2485](tel:520-297-2485).

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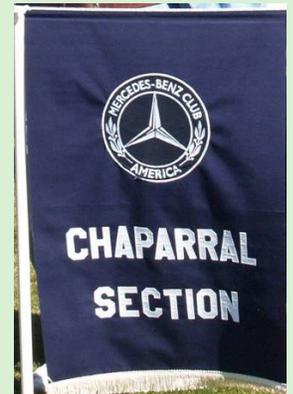
* 1 Year contract published quarterly.

Membership Fees:

3 Years \$157

2 Years \$107

1 Year \$ 55



Chaparral Section Board Meetings occur every 2nd Thursday at 5:00 PM at Mercedes-Benz of Tucson, 6350 E Grant Rd, 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 electronically published 4 times /yr. We announce date changes and other information electronically.

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