



THE STARDUST[®]

MAY 2005 | DESERT STARS SECTION | ARIZONA

British / European Auto Tour

Fourteen Desert Stars members joined a couple of hundred British and European Marque enthusiasts on the **British / European Auto Tour (BEAT)** for the weekend of April 23rd and 24th. On Saturday our hearty group met at Dunlap and I-17 at 6:00 AM with other auto aficionados for registration. After a brief drivers' meeting we were on the road heading north on I-17, then west on the Cave Creek Highway to Wickenburg via Lake Pleasant.

A stop at Wickenburg's train station for coffee and doughnuts and it's back on the road, this time heading for Prescott. Not the normal jaunt up state route 89 for these devotees of the tarmac, but on state route 93 for 50 miles, then onto state routes 97 & 96 through Hillside, Kirkland, Skull Valley and Iron Springs.

Finally in Prescott, we parked on Whiskey Row which was blocked off for the BEAT participants. We had a leisurely lunch at a crepe place on the square, recommended by a pair of our companions.

On the road again, this time heading for Cottonwood on state route 89A over Mingus Mountain through Jerome and Clarkdale. At Cottonwood's River Front Park we had ice cream and sodas and a quick visit by the Governor. Also photos were taken.

Some of us continued to Flagstaff by the scenic state route 89A through Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon, while others made the trek more expeditiously via I-17. At 'Little America' after checking in and removing a mild layer of road dust (the weather was beautiful and the convertible tops were down), we all gathered in the main ballroom for a mixer.

On Sunday morning we awoke to snow covering our cars. We gathered again in the ballroom for a breakfast buffet and then the infamous BEAT raffle. A few of our

group went away with tool kits and emergency jump starters.



Our group at the Wickenburg stop

The drive home was a hair-raising adventure down the hill from Flagstaff on I-17, since the snow/sleet/rain had continued throughout the morning. For those of us who learned to drive in the snow but now only drive in it every ten years or so, we just took it slow. It's still a little harrowing to see SUVs skidding into the median in front of you as you watch a red Camaro do 360s in your rear view mirror. Regardless, everyone made it home safely after a wonderful weekend adventure.