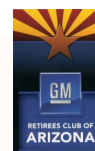


## VOLUME 2

FEBRUARY 1, 2013



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



Well, how did you like Volume 1 of The Club Reporter? Hopefully, it provided you with some interesting information about fellow Club members and events. The stories and information appearing in Volume 2 for February 2013, hopefully, will be equally as interesting and for the first time we are offering "discounts" on tickets for the Silver Star Playhouse and the upcoming March 3rd NASCAR Race at Phoenix International Raceway. So, take a look at the ads contained in this publication for further details on how you can save. As always, we would like your feedback on what you think of our publication so we can continually improve. All you need to do is respond to this email message or call me at (480) 634-5332. I will be happy to publish your letters and comments or implement your ideas in future eNewsletters. For example, Lee Wudell recommended that we include a map to all future Club meeting locations in the "Meeting Announcement Section" of the eNewsletter. As a result, we have included a link to the map of the February meeting site at Courtesy Chevrolet in Phoenix. Also, we solicit any and all NEW STORY IDEAS!

Now, sit back and enjoy the second edition of your eNewsletter.

Sincerely, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you all very much for allowing me to become the new 2013 President of the GM Retirees Club of Arizona. I am very excited to be given this opportunity to lead our Club. I am looking forward to continuing to serve this fine group in the manner of the previous leaders and pledge to continue to listen to Club members and keep the focus on providing variety, fun, learning and even some GM centric meetings and events. Please make sure to thank Jon Moss and his lovely bride Susan for their hard work and dedication to this group over the past year. Fortunately, they plan to stay active in group activities and provide counsel and support.

**CLUB ANNUAL SURVEY:** In the spirit of listening to our members, in the next few days we will be providing you with a copy of the Club's Annual Member Survey. Surveys will be sent to all members via the U.S. mail on or about January 8, 2013 along with the new 2013 Club Member Roster. Your mailing will include two types of surveys, one MALE and one FEMALE version. We would ask

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- February meeting at Courtesy Chevrolet
- Annual Survey mailed
- Discount ticket offer
- Member news items wanted for future publications

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

that you and your spouse fill your surveys out individually and then mail both back to Jim Irwin in the enclosed envelope at your earliest convenience. If you are coming to the January 15th meeting at the Heard Museum, of course, bring them with you and drop them off at the check-in desk. If not, please mail your surveys to Jim as soon as possible. We would like to have the survey results back for review and decision making at our February Board of Directors meeting. It is extremely important that we receive your input, because as we go forward there are many new challenges that we all face that we can overcome together if we can identify needs and create solutions. Blank surveys will also be available at the Heard Museum in case you forget.

**FEBRUARY MEETING LOCATION:** On February 12, 2013, our Club Meeting will be held at Courtesy Chevrolet located in Phoenix. (See Attendance Response Form for details). Our featured guest speaker is Don Johnson, Chevrolet General Manager. We anticipate he will be talking to us about a number of "soon to be released" new Chevrolet products. So, be sure to put this meeting date on your calendar so you don't miss it. This event is a dealer sponsored event so there will be "no charge" to members. Also, since the dealer has been so gracious to pay for lunch, members will be able to bring only one person with them. In addition, we will need you to respond by sending in the "Attendance Response Form" attached so we can make seating and lunch arrangements.

**SPECIAL 20% OFF DISCOUNT TICKET OFFER - Silver Star Playhouse:** We are pleased to announce that our Club has secured a limited number of specially priced discounted tickets (\$14.00 ea. - Includes sales tax) for all 2013 Silver Star Playhouse events of which you can use for whatever play you would like to see. These tickets can be purchased from our Club by calling Alan Steffe, Club Secretary/Treasurer, at (480) 563-1369. Alan will then issue you a voucher number that you can take directly to the Playhouse for seat selection. We encourage you to tell your friends about this offer. In fact, the Club may schedule a "special event" in March for those who would prefer to go with other Club members. There are only 59 tickets available - "once they are gone their gone."

**SPECIAL 20% OFF DISCOUNT TICKET OFFER - NASCAR March 3rd Race at PIR.** Needless to say, our Club's two "special events" held for GM Retirees and their guests at the speedway have been met with overwhelming acceptance. We have taken 235 people to the last two November NASCAR races at Phoenix International Raceway. March 3, 2013 is the next scheduled NASCAR race at PIR and we have been able to negotiate a "special 20% discount" for race tickets for the March race. So, if you are receiving this Newsletter **via paper** copy and are interested in securing tickets, please call Jim Harshman at (480) 634-5332 and he will set you up. If you are receiving this message **via eNewsletter**, scroll down to the PIR ad and click on the blue link. This will take you directly to the GM Retirees of AZ site on the PIR website and then just follow their directions for purchase of tickets. This is not a "Club Sponsored Event" so all transactions will be between you and the speedway.

**DEATH NOTICE:** It is with sorrow that I have to announce that we have lost a long time member of our Club. **Mary Olsen, GM Public Relations Staff**, passed away with family in Minnesota in mid-December. Mary was a past Club Board Member and very active in the Club with her husband Art who passed before her. Mary will be missed by all who knew her.

I hope this wasn't too long for the first message, but like I said earlier, I am excited to be given this opportunity to lead our group. Welcome to what we hope will be a great 2013.

Respectively submitted;

Ken Wechselberger, President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Memo:

January 2, 2013 has come and gone and there were no new nominations received from Club Members for new 2013 Club Officer positions. Therefore, the recommendation of the Nominating Committee will stand and their proposal is confirmed.

<b>President:</b>	Ken Wechselberger	<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Alan Steffe
<b>Vice President:</b>	Larry Sessoms	<b>Staff Record Keeper:</b>	Jim Irwin
<b>Staff Factotum:</b>	Jim Smeets	<b>Staff Media:</b>	Bob Bowden
<b>Board Members:</b>	Don Robins, Mike Neaves Jim Harshman, Jon Moss	<b>Director Emeritus:</b>	Bud Moore, Joe Fetzer
<b>Sub Directors:</b>	John Riley, Ward Atkinson, Jim Shepherd		

**Club Website:** [www.gmretireesaz.com](http://www.gmretireesaz.com) (New)

**Official GM Retirees Website:** [www.gmretiree.com](http://www.gmretiree.com)

## NEW CLUB PRESIDENT - KEN WECHSELBERGER



**Ken Wechselberger** was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. His first job was with US Electrical Motors - Division of Emerson Electric, in Chicago, Illinois and Memphis, Tennessee. He began his career with General Motors in 1969 at the Chevrolet facility in Oakbrook, Illinois as a regional driver. Then his career took off with time spent in many United States Chevrolet and Buick "line sales and marketing staff positions". Several significant jobs included 1.) Buick Assistant General Sales Manager - Field Organization having responsibility for 14 Regions and 30 Zones. 2.) Chevrolet Northeast Regional Manager - Boston. 3.) GM Western Region Sales Manager responsible for all GM Divisions (Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, GMC, Hummer, Saturn and

Saab). Ken's career also included work assignments in Shanghai, China as a Sales and Marketing Consultant to GM China and to GM Overseas Corporation in Tokyo, Japan in support of Opel and Isuzu sales.

**Special Memories:** Early in Ken's career, he was assigned to work with the Chevrolet Small Car school in Wilmington, Delaware which was charged with training 6000 retail dealership salespersons. The size and magnitude of the assignment made an indelible impression in Ken's mind, but it also acted as a "spring board" to other major job assignments which quickly followed.

**Worst Memories:** Ken remembers having his entire family in tears at the dinner table when he announced that they were moving to Japan...they hated to leave the United States. He also remembers having his entire family in tears when he announced that they were moving back to the United States from Japan. Sometimes, you just can't win.

**Hobbies** include golf, racquet ball, water volley ball and reading.



Now, behind every  
good man is a good  
wife. .

### Joyce Wechselberger

She also was born and raised in Chicago where she worked in the banking business and for a Public Relations firm located in the Loop. Lucky for Ken, he met Joyce on a "blind date" in April 1964 and they were married in 1968. They have three grown children (two girls - teachers and one son - works at Wes Rydell Chevrolet in Parts) Joyce also has her Screen Acting Guild Card (SAG) and has appeared as a "background actor" in such TV shows and movies as "Everybody Loves Raymond", Judge Advocate General (JAG) and as a "stand in actress" for Julie Andrews in "The Princess Diaries".

**Unique Hobbies:** Have you ever heard of anybody buying their home based on their "hobby requirements"? Well, now you have. Joyce is a "Quilt Maker Extraordinaire" who owns the largest quilt making machine available for sale. Their Arizona home is located in the community of Pebble Creek, Goodyear, AZ and was purchased with the stipulation it had an upstairs loft where her quilting machine could be assembled and used. Joyce specializes in making usable "Memory Quilts" (featuring lifetime events), Themed Quilts (NASCAR, family names, tie quilts), and Traditional Quilts - and has produced hundreds over the last 30 years since she started in the early 1980s. Teaching quilting is also one of her skills which began in the 80's in Rochester Hills, Michigan and in cities as far away as Tokyo, Japan. (See sample of quilts below). So, is there still time for other things besides quilting? You bet...golf, pickle ball and local quilting group programs. Ken, you are a "lucky man"!



Joyce quilting away!



Chevy Geezers 1999—2008



**NEW CLUB VICE PRESIDENT—LARRY SESSOMS**

Larry retired in May of 2008 following 37 years with the GM Legal Staff. As a lawyer, he represented GM in variety of capacities around the world. He served as counsel to our marketing and service organizations in the '70's and '80's, but later in his career was focused on engineering and development, ultimately serving as chief counsel to the EV-1 project, to GM Truck Group under Tom Davis, and to Global Powertrain Group/Advance Vehicle Technologies under Arv Mueller and Tom Stephens. Along with others on teams with which he worked, he received one President's Award (Asia Pacific), and two Chairman's Honors. And he had the privilege of working with, among others in our Club, Jim Irwin and Jon Moss on some of their projects.

Larry was raised in a small community (Arlington, WA) north of Seattle where his grandfather was a lumbering pioneer and his father followed in those footsteps. After breaking his leg skiing when a sophomore at the University of Washington, he transferred to Southern Methodist University in Dallas where he met his wife of 43 years, Faye.

Many of us know Faye, or at least her family. Born in Janesville, WI, Faye, together with her twin sister and younger brother, moved around the country as her father advanced in the ranks of Chevrolet Marketing. Her father, Bill Stacy, retired as Sales Manager-Administrative under Bob Cook. Her brother, Bill, works today as a director with GM central office marketing.

But Larry is clear that Faye's background has little or nothing to do with his GM employment; rather, he credits Ralph Nader. Following the debacle around GM's pursuit of Nader in the late '60's, Ross Malone, immediate past president of the American Bar Association, was appointed GM General Counsel. Ross was on the board of trustees of SMU Law School where Larry graduated in 1971 with a MBA and JD.

Faye and Larry were married following Larry's first year of graduate school and six month's active service in the Air Force National Guard (ahh, Vietnam era...). While her degree was in education, Delta Airlines provided a more lucrative opportunity--Faye worked in Delta sales, handling executive accounts, until their first child was born in 1975. Thereafter she became the ultimate volunteer including as Deacon at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, many hours at Beaumont Hospital, and, together with Larry, leadership roles with Scouts.

Faye and Larry have three children: Mark (37), with his wife and two children live in San Diego; Todd (34), together with fellow teacher Jessica, currently reside in Shanghai where they teach at the Shanghai American School (see [www.SASChina.org](http://www.SASChina.org); children of several GM international service personnel are in their classes); Kristy (31), with her husband and two children, reside in Boulder, CO.

The kids all attended colleges outside Michigan, and careers kept them away. So Faye and Larry migrated to Pebble Creek where today they enjoy the Arizona sun and all the activities it allows. As for summers, they are "snowbirds". In 1918 Larry's grandfather built a summer home at Warm Beach on Puget Sound. As Larry says, "you got a neat piece of property in 1918." They have rebuilt that home. But Faye's sister and brother are still in the Detroit area, and they do get back there, typically for Thanksgiving and other special occasions.

Larry is an only child, and all of his earlier generation have passed on. He is named for his father's brother who commanded a landing craft on D-Day. Faye and Larry have a trip planned this coming May to tour Normandy and see the beach where he died that day.

**NEW CLUB SECRETARY / TREASURER — ALAN STEFFE**

Alan was born and raised in the Saginaw/Bay City, Michigan area. He graduated from General Motors Institute in 1968 with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He also participated in a General Motors Bachelor's/Master's program at the University of Michigan, receiving a M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering in 1967. He joined General Motors in 1962 as a GMI student at the Saginaw Malleable Iron Plant of Central Foundry Division and quickly moved up the management ranks where in 1973 he was promoted to Maintenance Superintendent.

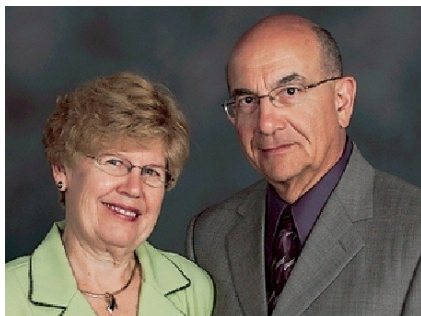
On November 1, 1975, it was on to the Danville, IL plant where he again quickly moved up the management ranks and became General Superintendent. From 1983 to the day he retired in 2006 he held many varied positions such as; Plant Manager-Massena, New York; Engineering Manager-Chassis & Transmission Business Unit, Central Foundry; Engineering Manager-Castings, GM Powertrain; Technical Director-Casting Engineering; Manufacturing Engineering Director - Castings for General Motors Powertrain Group. Alan retired on April 1, 2006.

A highlight in his career was when he was heavily involved in the development of the lost foam process, supporting the development of the process for the Saturn operations while at the Massena Plant and expanding the process from Massena to the Saginaw and Defiance, Ohio, foundries. He received a Service Citation Award from the American Foundry Society in April 2003 recognizing his "managerial and technical leadership in the metal casting industry including high volume lost foam casting processes for the automotive industry." In 2005 he received the William J. Grede Award from the American Foundry Society "for major contributions in the field of management, marketing or education which has resulted in expanding the effective use of metal castings."

Alan is a member of the American Foundry Society, past member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the North American Die Casting Association, served on the Board of Governors for the North American Die Cast Association, the Board of Directors for the American Foundry Society, the Board of Directors for the Foundry Association of Michigan, the Foundry Educational Foundation Advisory Committee for the University of Windsor, and the Advisory Board for AFS' *Engineered Castings Solutions*. He has been active in civic activities serving on the local United Way Boards and campaigns in Saginaw and Danville, the Junior Achievement Board in Danville, and the Salvation Army Board in Massena.

Alan is active in his local church, serving on various boards and activities, enjoys singing as a member of The Flint Mastersingers, and is involved with several retirees groups in Michigan. He enjoys golf, handiwork around the house, music, sports, and especially activities involving family.

Alan married Eunice Graff from Fowler, Michigan, on July 7, 1969. They met at the University of Michigan, where Eunice graduated from the School of Nursing in 1968. They have three children, all married, and seven grandchildren. Eunice passed away in December 2010 following a five-year battle with cancer. Recently, Alan has found another wonderful woman, Roxanne Walker, through his church in Grand Blanc and is looking forward to a July wedding.





## WE SALUTE AN AMERICAN VETERAN



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

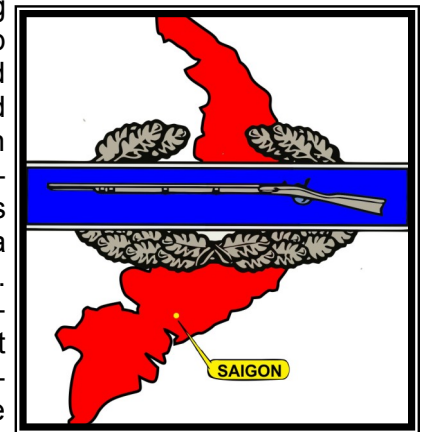


Jim Shepherd



Club Member and Board Sub-Director James Shepherd was drafted into the United States Army on July 11, 1966 and was honorably discharged on July 10, 1968. The highest rank he had attained before he retired was Specialist E-5, Pay Distribution Specialist. His units included: Basic Training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina, Advanced Training at Fort Dix, NJ (Clerk School) and Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, IN (Finance School). Oversea assignment - straight to Vietnam in January 1967 for 11 months and 24 days. Upon arrival in country he was assigned to the First Infantry Division (Known as the "Big Red One"), First Administrative Company which supported the 2/28th Infantry Regiment Bravo and Charlie Company's payroll activity.

Jim demonstrated his bravery and commitment to his country by volunteering to go on monthly "pay runs" which meant flying in by helicopter and picking up the soldier's money and pay records in Saigon and going into the battlefield and paying the troops, no matter where they were located between Saigon and the Cambodian border. Places like Dian, Phuoc Vinh, An Loc, Lai Khe, Bien Hoa, Loc Ninh, Quan Loi and wherever else the 2/28th Bravo & Charlie companies were located in South Vietnam. This area will go down in history as war zone "C". This is where things got a little "dicey"...you just can't go into a "live fire" battlefield unnoticed. Most of the time "pay call" was held in bunkers. Frequently, incoming mortar fire caused a delay in troop pay distribution activities while they dug further into a bunker to dodge flying shrapnel. The hardest part of his Vietnam service was the constant fear of getting killed and the danger involved in the performance of his duties. But the bottom line is..."the troops had to be paid", period! Troop morale was already low in Vietnam, let alone the thought of not getting paid driving it even lower. If you want to get a feel for the war zone that Jim was exposed to in order to deliver troop pay, Google any of the cities listed above and look at the YouTube footage. Especially "Battle of An Loc" video. Also, Google the "Big Red One" Vietnam - 1966-67 Operations.



## WE SALUATE AN AMERICAN VETERAN



Jim earned the following medals and ribbons: 1. Bronze Star Medal for Merit (Decorates soldiers who perform "meritorious" acts) 2. Army Air Medal 3. Army Commendation Medal 4. Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Bronze Service Stars 5. Good Conduct Medal 6. National Defense Service Medal 7. Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Device 60 8. 1 Overseas Bar 9. Vietnam Counter Offensive Phase II Ribbon 10. Expert Badge w/Rifle Bar



Jim's most memorable event that happened during his military career was when the Army granted him a small "military leave" during Basic Training (which is unheard of) to get married to his wife Dolores. You have got to know that both Jim and Dolores were born and raised in Manhattan, NY and wedding arrangements have to be made months in advance and are very expensive to cancel. So, on August 20, 1966 Jim and Dolores were married and have been together ever since. True story, you can't make this stuff up!

Upon completion of his mandatory two year Army commitment, Jim returned to his job at Cadillac Motor Division and for the next 36 years he worked in various Parts, Field and Central Office Sales Management positions throughout the United States. Before his retirement in 2001, Jim's final job title was GM Fleet Account Executive located in San Francisco, CA.



Jim was not what the Army would call a "lifer". He was drafted when he already had a great job at Cadillac, so I am sure he would have preferred not to serve at all, but he did. When a person is exposed to danger day in and day out they become very close to the persons and units they serve with. For the past 20 years, Jim has attended the 1st Infantry Division reunions and for the past 10 years has volunteered as part of the Command Post Hospitality Room setting up the meetings and selling memorabilia at the reunion. Every other year, during the week of October 17, Jim volunteers at reunions for memorial services to acknowledge the greatest loss that the 2/28th Infantry Regiment (Black Lions) ever suffered when Company "A" ran into a regiment of North Vietnamese and lost. Jim remains a "life member" of the VFW, the American Legion, the 1st Infantry Division and the 28th Infantry Regiment - Black Lions.

In 2002, Jim and Dolores moved from San Francisco to Scottsdale, AZ which is their year round home. Dolores spends her time with her church group (Our Lady of Joy Catholic Church) making "cool scarves" and stockings for our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and veterans homes in Phoenix area.



**Members of the GM Retirees Club of Arizona salute you Jim Shepherd and thank you for your service.**



## SILVER STAR PLAYHOUSE—DISCOUNT TICKETS



DON'T MISS OUT— SPECIAL PRICE \$14.00

Sept. 26– Nov 16

**MESA**  
**Man of La Mancha**

Jan 3–Jan 23

**Les**  
**Miserables**  
 A Revolution of Comedy!



**BUTCH CASSIDY**  
**& The SunBurnt Kid**  
 March 14– May 4

**Legally Brunette**  
 Not all Dumbs are Blonde  
 July 25–sept 14

May 16–July 6  
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**NEW MEMBERS—GEORGE AND NANCY HEBERLING**

**George** is a 40 year veteran of General Motors who began his career at the Chevrolet Oakland (CA) Assembly Plant as a GMI engineering student in 1954. Within a short period of time, he became a maintenance and line supervisor at the plant and his career began to take off. Beginning in 1962 - 1973, George began a series of engineering management jobs which allowed him to touch almost all of Chevrolet's platforms both large and small including trucks. He had responsibilities both in the engineering of the vehicle, production and was an expert in coordinating engineers through "fixes" which occurred in assembly. Managing "new vehicle start-up teams" became his specialty.

If we were to ask George what was his greatest contribution to Chevrolet Engineering he would probably say that he was able to lead staffs of engineers that worked for him to ensure that vehicles were designed and engineered that met production standards and got through the assembly plant without a problem. His philosophy was simple; put the designers and engineers together early in the process so they can make sure the pieces fit before being sent to production and assembly. The best example of his expertise is when George brought back the "design check & mockup process" to help and aid engineering and design. He made this part of the engineering process which is still in place today. Prior to this, management thought that all engineering and design could be done on computers, until they began to shut down plants and delay vehicle introductions. His efforts had a major positive impact on improving "Quality" and lowering overall costs. George retired in 1994.

George's most memorable moment at GM was when he ordered and drove the "one and only" aluminum block 1969 ZL1 Chevrolet Corvette built in St. Louis. If George would have decided to buy that car, it probably would have been worth \$3M today. Instead, a drug dealer ended up with the vehicle and lost it when the Government busted him. The Government then sold it at auction for \$450,000.00.

Hobbies include restoring & building "old model cars", "street hot rods" and "dragsters". Travelling in their motor home domestically provides days of fun and adventure as well as foreign travel to such places as Europe, China, Thailand, South America (Peru, the Amazon, Machu Picchu and Galapagos). Next up is Turkey and Uzbekistan this Spring.



1932 Roaster / 1971 Chevelle



1956 Blue Corvette Convertible

## COURTESY CHEVROLET—FEBRUARY MEETING



Don Johnson— GM Of Chevrolet

**Date :** February 12, 2013  
**Location:** Courtesy Chevrolet Dealership  
 1233 E. Camelback Rd  
 (SE Corner of 12th St & Camelback)  
 Phoenix, AZ 85014  
**Time:** 10:30AM - 1130AM - Arrival  
**Phone:** 602-279-3232

*Courtesy Chevrolet is hosting the  
 Luncheon Buffet.*

Each member may bring one other  
 person with them.

**Program:** Don Johnson, General  
 Manager of Chevrolet will be our  
 featured speaker for an update on  
 General Motors Company and a  
 review of new Chevrolet products.

**Chairman:** Jon Moss and Ken Wechselberger

[Link to Courtesy Chevrolet map](#)

### FEBRUARY "ATTENDANCE RESPONSE FORM"-COURTESY CHEVROLET

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your reservation form in the enclosed envelope to  
 Jim Irwin, 535 Topeka Dr., Wickenburg, AZ 85390

**ATTENTION:**

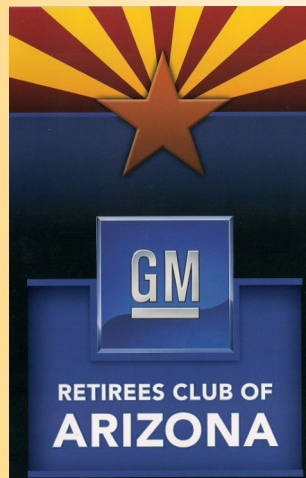
Must be received by Friday,  
 February 8, 2013





[www.GMRetireesAZ.com](http://www.GMRetireesAZ.com)

## **GM RETIREE CLUB**



**" A G M R E T I R E E S C L U B O F A R I Z O N A P U B L I C A T I O N "**

Designed by Diane E. Harshman

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