

VOLUME 4

APRIL 1, 2013



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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Well, it's April and this eNewsletter will be the second to the last one before we break for the summer. The final eNewsletter will be sent to you sometime toward the end of March and will be a "Special Edition". In this issue of the Reporter, we will pay tribute to the many Club volunteers that have so un-selfishly given of their time and talents to make the Club what it is today. Some of these volunteers you see and know by name because they greet you at the sign-in table every meeting. There is one man, however that you never see and he has been a Club member for 26 years, but today he works from behind the scenes, tirelessly producing parts of the Newsletter that you have been receiving and continue to receive. His name is Bob Bowden.

Now, if you haven't visited www.GMRetiree.com in the last several weeks you need to do so because one of our newest Club members, Hal Hubbard, was featured in a nationwide release about his second career as a "stunt man". In three weeks, "The Dancin' Grannies", will be featured, remember them? Just login at the site and at the home page scroll down to the bottom where GM Retirees are featured and take a look. You won't be sorry.

Sincerely, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



March was a big month for the GM Retirees Club of AZ. Besides the beautiful weather, we had three different activities available to Club members; The Subway Fresh Fit 500 at PIR, Outdoor BBQ at the Rustler's Rooste and "Butch Cassidy and the Sun Burnt Kid" at the Silver Star Playhouse. But now we're down to our last regular meeting event before the summer break. On [Wednesday, April 3rd](#) we will be going to the Culinary Arts School at the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) in Mesa, AZ. The students have a very special four course menu selected for us which includes three different entree choices. Any one of these entrees, with accompaniments and great dessert, should leave you wanting to have the group return to the Culinary Arts School often.

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- April Meeting—East Valley Culinary Arts School

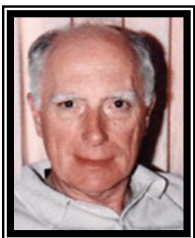
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a wonderful lunch, we will be treated to a very interesting presentation by the Phoenix FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge (ASAC), Steven R. Hooper. He will be talking about Emerging Terrorism Threats. Since 9/11, the FBI has transformed itself from a reactive, investigative-led agency to an intelligence-driven, threat based, national security and law enforcement agency with counter-terrorism as its highest priority. ASAC Hooper will discuss the FBI's transformation and the evolving terrorism threat. I have already warned him that after our bountiful meal he better be exciting. I think this will be a wonderful close to our 2012-2013 Club season.

As we heard from our Guest Speaker last month, Chevy VP Don Johnson, 2013 is expected to be another growth year for the automotive industry reaching about 15.0 million units in the United States and strong growth for GM in particular with about two dozen new product launches. Remember, Scott Gruwell invited all the Club Retirees to come to Courtesy Chevrolet sometime in April to participate in the dealership's 2014 New Impala Launch Party. When the date has been locked down we'll give everybody a "heads up". In addition, responding to requests from Club members, the Board is developing a Golf Outing/Special Event for April 17th, so, if you are a golfer (men or ladies) keep that date open. It will be held at Pebble Creek Golf Course and be a "scramble format", so we will all be in for a great day. More details to follow.

I have a special request for each of our members based upon the reduced support from General Motors Corporation. The Board is working hard to find and schedule interesting new meeting venues and guest speakers. However, we need the power of "group scale" to help us spread room and equipment costs. That means we need to continually grow our member base. We need your help to identify GM and Affiliate retirees and recruit them to our Club. Share our great Newsletters and tell them about the range of events and activities our group enjoys from October through April every year. Welcome them to our group and give them one of the \$10.00 coupons we have for new members and get one for yourself to go towards reducing the cost of a meeting meal charge. New members provide vitality and energy, they bring new stories about their GM careers and they probably know some of us but don't realize we have settled here in Phoenix. Your help in finding and recruiting would be a great assist to our Club.

In closing, I would like to inform you that the Board is in the process of collating and analyzing the Club's Annual Surveys and we should be able to share the learning's with you at the April meeting and in more detail in the next "Special Edition" of the eNewsletter. However, we can respond immediately on one of the issues raised. For those members that have concerns about some menu items we will endeavor to provide a non-meat item for all future meetings.



Death Notice: LEE H. SHINN. It is with sorrow that I have to announce that we have lost a long time active member of our Club. Lee, 87 of Sun City West passed away on February 7, 2013. He served in the Eighth Air Force in WWII flying 28 missions as a B-24 bomber tail gunner. Lee graduated from GMI in 1950 with a BS Degree in Industrial Engineering. He was employed for over 37 years at the Packard Electric Division of GM located in Warren, Michigan. Lee will be missed.

Respectfully submitted;
Ken Wechselberger, President

50/50 DRAWING WINNERS / MARCH 2013



Jon Moss

1st Place \$87.00



Wayne Van Den Boom

2nd Place \$65.00



Dave Thompson

3rd Place \$45.00



El Schlesinger

4th Place \$21.00

You could be a WINNER too!

Don't forget to purchase your winning ticket at each meeting.

EAST VALLEY CULINARY ARTS SCHOOL- APRIL MEETING


[Click here for directions](#)


Date : April 3, 2013

Location: East Valley Institute of Technology
1601 W. Main St. Mesa, AZ

Time: 11:15 AM Arrival (*no open bar*)
12:00 AM Lunch
1:00 PM Meeting

Cost: \$19.00 per person

Member: _____ Guest: _____

☐

Beer Braised Pork Short Rib

☐

Arizona Spiced Chicken

☐

Vegetarian Plate

**Please choose
an Entree**


Mail your reservation form in the enclosed envelope to

Jim Irwin, 535 Topeka Dr., Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Please return coupon to arrive no later than March 28th

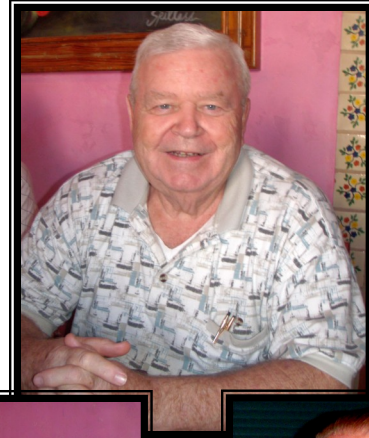
Menu:

Roasted Corn Chowder Watercress Salad: Bosc Pear, Toasted Walnut, Gorgonzola Blue Cheese

Entrée: Beer Braised Pork Short Rib: Braise in a rich meat glaze **or** Arizona Spiced Chicken: Roasted Poblano Polenta**Or** Vegetarian Plate **Dessert:** Bread Pudding: Crème Anglaise and Seasonal Berries

CLUB VOLUNTEERS—MEMBERS WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

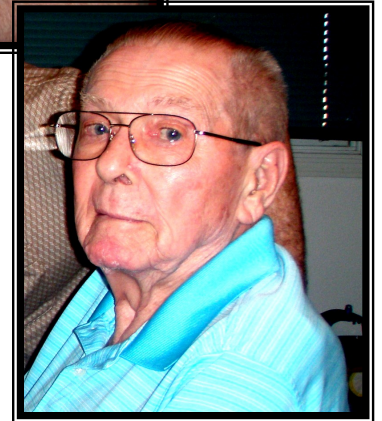
Sue, Jim, Jean, Clarence, Lora, Marjorie



Jim Smeets



Jim Irwin



Bob Bowden

Pictures above are the men and women who are the "backbone of the Club". These are the Club members who, for years, have organized all of the Club "support functions" that allow us to so effortlessly be informed of club information and functions as well as make sure once we have arrived at a meeting site that we are checked into the event without a hassle. As a tribute to these men and women, we have dedicated this issue to honor their years of service and to make you aware as to who they are and what benefits they provide to you and the Club.

BOB BOWDEN: I would be remiss if I didn't begin with Bob Bowden, perhaps the longest continuous serving member of the Retirees Club of AZ. Bob was born and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan where his dad worked for Cadillac as an executive in the area of finance. He served in the U.S. Army assigned to the 103rd Infantry Division in France during WWII. As a young man, he began working for Fisher Body who sponsored him at General Motors Institute where he graduated. His specialty was Die Design Engineering where he progressed up through the management ranks to the title of Assistant to the Director of Design Supervision - Administration who happened to be Dick Olin (Current Club Member). Bob retired in April of 1984 and moved to Sun City West, AZ which he still calls home. Once in Arizona, he continued to enjoy his hobbies; golf, the RV Club, building sets for Theater West, Chairman of the Sun City West Christmas Party and President of the Computer Club.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS—MEMBERS WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

Now, behind every good man there is a good woman. Bob met his wife Shirley who was born and raised in Bay City, MI. Things didn't go so smoothly at first, because her dad was a Ford Man, but love can overcome all obstacles and they were married in 1946. Shirley worked in the Cadet Nurse Corp from 1985 - 1995. Her hobbies included golf, bowling and raising 3 beautiful daughters who are shown here.

When Bob joined the Club in 1984, William A. Chapman was the Club President and General Motors Corporation was a major supporter to its retirees and played a major role in everything from providing Executive



Speakers to financial support for golf outings. All retirees loved GM and couldn't get enough information about the Corporation. Bob was a very active member and in 1994 saw an opportunity to make the Club function even better for the benefit of its members. He, along with others, began to streamline Club operating procedures, upgraded meeting content and wrote the first Monthly Club Newsletter which, to this day, he is still a part of the monthly publication process. All of his efforts made the Club function more professionally and economically. His computer skills saved Club Members thousands of dollars annually and as a result GM Corporation began to recognize the Club as the "best run" in the county. Innovations such as; 1.) In-house production and mailing of newsletters & fliers. 2.) Monthly meetings focused on GM. 3.) Meeting sponsors. For 29 years, Bob has worked tirelessly to make the Club a better place and for his service we owe him a debt of gratitude. Unfortunately, Bob does not attend as regularly as he would like to, but his presence will be felt through his continued work in publishing the Club's Monthly Newsletter.



JIM IRWIN is probably best known by Club Members as "the guy we send our money to for Club events & meetings". Yes, but that is only partially true. Jim has been officially known as the Club's "Staff Record Keeper" for the last 12 years. He is the guy who accepts a new member application, collects annual dues, records member monthly meeting reservations and deposits, interfaces with Jim Smeet's group to ensure monthly Newsletter mailings are completed on time and tracks member names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses in order to publish the Annual Member Roster. Wow, that's a lot of stuff to do...wonder if he has a computer? (Yep!)

Jim was born and raised in Pueblo, CO. He first worked for Cadillac in 1963 who eventually sponsored him at GMI where he graduated. In 1970, he went to work at the Technical Service Research Group at the Warren Tech Center and eventually retired from the Service Technology Group in 1999 as Director - Training Center Operations. Yes, Jim is a car guy and his hobbies include building "Collector Cars", "Hot Rods" and "Street Rods". He has dabbled with "Antique Cars", but they are not his first love.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS—MEMBERS WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

KATHY IRWIN: Jim met his wife Kathy in high school and they were married in 1964. While Jim was attending GMI, Kathy was working for the FBI in Washington DC in Data Entry. When things settled down, Kathy pretty much became a "stay-at-home" Mom taking care of their three boys until they were grown and on their own. Jim & Kathy moved to Wickenburg in 2000 where Kathy started making jewelry, doing shows and became a volunteer at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum and spent 4 years as a member of their Board of Directors. If you haven't been to the Museum you should do so.

First, go to www.westernmuseum.org and check it out. You won't be disappointed. Oh, and you will occasionally see Kathy helping out at the Club Meeting Check-In-Table.



JIM SMEETS: Now, if there was ever a "key spoke in the wheel" Jim Smeets and his team of 5 is it. They have nicknamed themselves "The Boiler Room Gang". Jim is the "team leader" for the group that is responsible for making sure that the Newsletter gets written, printed and mailed to all Club Members every month. In addition, he is responsible for helping coordinate all on-site meeting arrangements. How long has he been doing this you ask? 19 Years! At one point, not too long ago, the Club had 300 members...so ask yourself what does it take to print 300 newsletters, address envelopes, stuff and seal the envelope and plop a stamp on the outside. Hours! But, Jim and his team of 5 are dedicated and enjoy doing it. Oh, it's not all hard work. "Stuff, Lick & Stick Night" usually comes with a pizza and salad and lots of

great memories. What's really freaky is that they are all from Fenton, MI. How's that for a coincidence...all from Fenton and just happened to move to Sun City in the same neighborhood just to become friends and stuff envelopes? Now let's learn a little more about each one of the team members, starting with Jim Smeets.

Jim was born and raised in Flint, MI. He started with GM in 1955 in Chevrolet Finance/Office Services and was Pay Master for two plants (Van Slyke Complex) for 10 years. Jim worked pretty much in the finance arena his entire career with Chevrolet transitioning to Fisher Guide and through AC Spark Plug and AC Rochester. He retired from GM in 1990 as Supervisor of Financial Records at AC Rochester. During his free time, Jim ran for public office and was elected Fenton Township Supervisor and spent 20 years developing 84 miles of sanitary sewers, solving dog issues and refereeing property line disputes. In 1955 he married his wife Sue and they have been married for 57 years. Thank goodness, because unbeknown to him he would need another member "The Boiler Room Gang" once they retired and moved to Sun City West, AZ in 1991. Never one to let grass grow under his feet, in 1992 Jim joined the Club and by 1995 he was elected as President. From 2006 - 2011, he was a volunteer in the AWIM program in the Valley.

In looking back during the "Flint Golden Years" there were a lot of good things happening in the community. For example, Jim remembers that in 1985 Flint was recognized as having 87,600 good middle class jobs, highest average per capital income levels, but now... its known for the number of murders rather than its jobs. The government offered no help and thus the demise of a city that was once the gem of the State of Michigan. Jim and Sue now live in Sun City West and fills his time

CLUB VOLUNTEERS—MEMBERS WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

"couponing", reading, visiting family and performing Club activities. Jim and Sue have 4 daughters. Jill works at Liberty Buick, Kim works at Larry Miller Hyundai, and Vickie is a mom living in Glendale. Debbie was sadly killed in an auto accident several years ago in Michigan. They have 6 grand children and 10 great grandchildren all of which live in Arizona. Thanks Jim for your unwavering commitment of service to the Club. The Club would not have been the same without you.



SUE SMEETS also was born and raised in Flint/Fenton, MI and worked as a Receptionist for a local doctor and 10 years for the Keith Haven Nursing Home in Administration besides being a Mom. During this period, Sue's Mom and Dad lived in Scottsdale so the hand writing was pretty much on the wall as to what part of the country Jim and Sue were going to retire. In fact, they bought a home in Sun City West 10 years before Jim retired. Sue keeps very busy; She is past President of the Calligraphy Club, Chairman of the Arts & Crafts Club of Sun City West, likes water aerobics and golf.



MARJORIE BUNCE: Marjorie's husband, Bruce H. Bunce, was born and raised in the Hillsdale, MI area and graduated from Tri-State Engineering College in 1964. He was hired by GM immediately upon graduation and started working at the GM Metal Fabrication Plant in Flint, MI. Bruce worked in many GM Plants during his career until he retired in 1995. He was a Mechanical Engineer. Bruce and Marjorie were married in 1954. They have four children and three grandchildren. In 1996 they moved to Arizona, loved playing golf and were active in the GM Retirees Club for several years until Bruce was diagnosed with Lung Cancer and passed away on February 13, 2008.



LORA TUCKER was born and raised in the Detroit/Hastings, MI area. In her early, pre-GM years, she worked as a Registered Nurse. In 1977, GM hired Lora for a two week period and she stayed 19 years. Lora liked variety and GM obliged by allowing her to work at Truck and Bus, Cadillac and Buick in such business areas as S & A Insurance, workers compensation, labor relations and the medical department. Her final position at GM was Supervisor, Medical Department when she retired in March of 1996. Lora Married in 1954 and had three children - 2 daughters and one son; one daughter lives in Ohio and works in real estate and the other lives in Florida and is a nurse. Tragically, her husband passed away in 1983 (he was the Assistant Principal of

Grand Blanc High School) and her son passed on September 1, 2012. She has six grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Her brother and family live in Scottsdale. Lora moved to Sun City West in 1996 and immediately became involved in the GM Retirees Club and the Sun City West Nurses Club. She loves golf, water fitness, computers, reading and photography.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS—MEMBERS WHO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

JEAN HEIDENBERGER: Jean was born and raised in the Flint, MI area and began working for GM in 1951 - 1954 in the Parts Division. She left for several years, but returned in 1960 working for the Chevrolet Financial Department at their Main Office in Flint. During her work career there were no computers (WHAT?) so everything had to be done by typewriter. She initially supported 8 ladies who created statistical financial reports, later wrote journals and acted as back-up support for the Executive Secretary of the Comptroller. She retired in 1987 from the Financial Department at GM Fisher Guide Division.

Jean is married with 4 children. One son is a graduate of GMI. Their second son works as Manager of the Maintenance Department at Southwest Airlines in Dallas (Love Field). A daughter who works in real estate and a second daughter who works for the Michigan Secretary of State's Office. Jean loves to travel, entertain and especially return every summer to Silver Lake where she has lived for the past 28 years. She and her husband Clarence have been active in the GM Retirees Club of AZ for 18 years where they have their winter home in Sun City West.



WANDA SNYDER: Wanda was born and raised in Flint, MI. She began her GM career in 1955 at AC Rochester in Financial, specializing in health insurance. Her job basically was to create financial reports of all types of health insurance that GM offered to all employee classifications. She also handled all death benefit inquiries for active and retirees. Wanda married a gentleman who worked in the Chevrolet Main Office in Flint and had two sons and a daughter. One son is married living in Michigan. The second son is single and lives in Texas. Wanda's daughter is married with two sons living in Mesa, AZ. Wanda retired from GM in 1988 where she was working as a Personnel Specialist. Sadly, her husband passed away just

before she moved to Sun City West, Arizona 14 years ago. When asked "what was her favorite" hobby, she said "the pool", plus that she was a "Picnic Person" to which she informed me that she was invited on a monthly basis. Her other hobbies include ceramics, calligraphy and making jewelry. Wanda joined the GM Retirees Club of AZ in 2000 and Jim Smeets must have seen her coming. She immediately was recruited to be part of the "The Broiler Room Gang" and worked the sign-in desk at her very first Club meeting. Jim, lighten up. At least let them sit down and watch the show, once. Or, maybe it was the lure of being able to sit in, "reserved seating" section that convinced her to join the ["The Broiler Room Gang."](#)

With gratitude and appreciation for all that

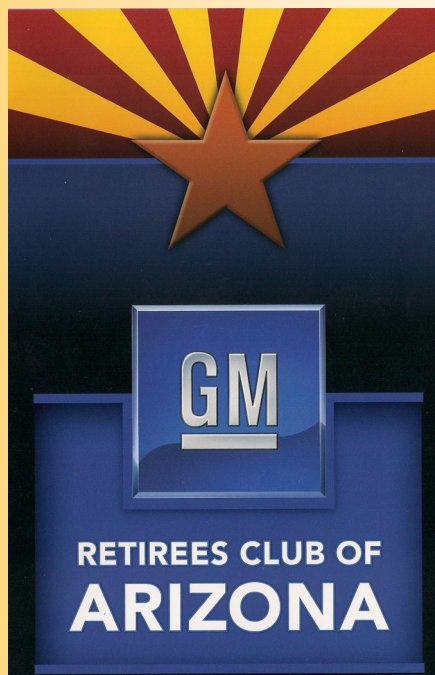
"The Broiler Room Gang"

contributes to the GM Retirees Club!



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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