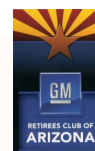


THE CLUB REPORTER

FEBRUARY 2014



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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Sheriff Joe does it again! 140 Club Members turned out for the event and Ted Vaile finally gets to meet the man he volunteered five years of his life working for in Sun City West. In this edition, I would be remiss if we didn't go back and relive this event, because it was truly Club History in the making. In addition, I want to introduce everyone who wasn't able to attend the January meeting to our new President and supporting Board Members who are now in place. We also will feature this month's General Motors guest speaker Ms. Jean Hoglund, Director - Cadillac Sales Operations and a new Club Member Mr. Lamont Corp.

Hey, something new for the next two months! What if I were to tell you that for the February and March Club Meetings you do NOT have to print out the "Meeting Acknowledgement Forms" and send them to Jim Irwin? All you have to do is email Jim Irwin at knjirwin@msn.com and tell him if you are coming and how many will be in your party. No check required, because these two events are dealer sponsored. Simple, but we are asking that you **respond immediately** upon receipt of this newsletter or no later than February 3rd. In fact, we would like you to give us your early response to both the February and March meetings. See the "Meeting Acknowledgement Section" of this newsletter for more information.

Now, sit back, turn up the "print font size" on your computer and enjoy the newsletter.

Sincerely, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sheriff Joe really brought us out for our January meeting with some 140 in attendance—can we beat that February 11th when Coulter Cadillac, Buick, GMC in Tempe hosts our Club and Detroit based Cadillac executive Jean Hoglund, Director, Cadillac Sales Operations joins us as guest speaker? I hope so! The meeting will be held at the Oakwood Country Club in Sun Lakes. Please do remember that in order to have the right number of seats, and as a courtesy to our host who is paying for an outstanding lunch, we do need for you to confirm your reservation for this meeting by **February 3rd**, giving us an exact attendance count. As always, Jim Irwin is the contact for reservations.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- March 11th—Sands Chevrolet
- March 28th—Golf Outing
- April 8th—Chase Field Tour

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the three years that I have had the privilege of serving with our Club's Board of Directors, we have often discussed the changing nature of our Club. Actually, that is more how our Club is changing in recognition of the changes which have occurred within General Motors, including reduced financial and speaker support to retiree clubs such as ours, and a change of attitude around dealer support. We've moved to having speakers on local, non-automotive subjects, and visiting new and different venues. As we enter 2014, we are looking at still more changes, with an understanding that our members expectations are quite similar when it comes to GM and the desire for product knowledge, but differ significantly as we consider other activities.

In this context, late last year we established a committee of our Board to look at still different activities we might consider for the future. That committee will be making its report to you before lunch at our February meeting. We've asked that our Board members spread out in February, with one sitting at most tables in order to lead a 10 minute discussion after the presentation in order to capture your candid input. We don't claim to have all the answers here—your input really is needed. Already one person has said to me that he joined our club to keep in touch with GM and its products, and for no other reason; i.e., no need for non-automotive socializing. Yet others have said just the opposite, that we're no longer tied significantly to GM, and while we have it in common, we need to offer more and different activities and venues. Can we do both, and satisfy all—we're trying!

This year we have seven lunch meetings scheduled. Among the alternatives we will be discussing is possibly replacing one of those meetings with another activity. Or, should we maintain all of our lunches, and plan an additional activity. Should we plan a night activity, knowing that many of our members prefer to not drive at night? To the extent we do move to offer variety, we want to do so in a manner that enhances the experience for all, not in a manner that might leave someone behind. Start giving this thought, and help us with candid feedback at our upcoming meeting...please.

I thought I'd put the business part first in this note, because it really is most important as we plan events for the year which will follow our summer break. But I must also say thanks to you for making me your President, a role I assumed from Ken Wechselberger effective with our January meeting. Bob Goebel serves now as your Vice President, and Alan Steffe continues as our Secretary-Treasurer. But we officers are supported by a Board which continues to be the real force behind our Club, selecting, contracting for and planning our monthly events, and now focused as well on some different kinds of activities we might consider for the future. In February we'll introduce our Board, and you'll hear more about the full team which works to support our Club.

Thanks to all—please do come join us *February 11th* for our event sponsored by Coulter Motor Company Tempe, *March 11th* for our event sponsored by Sands Chevrolet, and *April 8th* when we will have a photo op on the pitcher's mound in Chase Field/Diamondback stadium.

MARCH GOLF OUTING

Yes, we will have another golf outing this year. Ken Wechselberger and Don Robins have confirmed that the golf outing will take place on Friday, *March 28th* and that it will be a "Shotgun Scramble" where everyone hits

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

and then the group uses the best ball. The golf outing will take place at the Oakwood Country Club, the site of our February meeting. Last year we had 17 members and guests participate in our first such outing following a hiatus of several years. We considered that event a success in that a group of us got together, got to know one another better, and had fun. We hope the number might double this year! More details to follow, but please remember that this outing will be to encourage camaraderie—we have room for those who don't mind putting miles on the golf cart, or picking up their ball and moving to the next hole if they are slowing down play. Come join us if you can!

NAME BADGES

At our January meeting we displayed our new Club name badges, and handed out order forms for those wanting them. Whether you order the new name badge, prefer our old Club name badge, or prefer to wear another badge, we do ask that all members and their spouses or significant others who regularly attend wear a name badge. In the past, we have focused on the retiree wearing a name badge, but we really would like to expand that to all because...some of us...recognize faces from month to month but can be embarrassed to admit we don't always remember the name with the face! The new badges with a magnet backing are great—a pin version is available if preferred. Order forms will again be available at the February registration desk.

Respectfully submitted, LARRY SESSOMS, President

50/50 DRAWING WINNERS

January

WINNERS!



Ben Snyder



\$85.00



Dennis Powers



\$55.00



Joan Stukenborg



\$3500

You could be a WINNER too!

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

JANUARY 2014 CLUB MEETING—REVIEW OF EVENTS

First and foremost, Club Members confirmed the election of new officers. Larry Sessoms is our new President for the calendar year 2014 shown here presenting a clock to our outgoing 2013 President, Ken Wechselberger. Many thanks to Ken for a job well done during his tenure as President.



Bob Goebel was elected Vice-President



Alan Steffe will remain as Secretary/Treasurer. Both men bring a wealth of experience to the Club having filled executive level positions during their careers with GM and in their respective communities once they retired.

As officers, Larry, Bob and Alan have voting rights and are responsible for all Club decisions. Biographies on all three men have recently appeared in The Club Reporter over the past several months and I encourage you to review them. If you would like a copy of their biographies, please contact me at jharsh333@gmail.com and I will forward them to you. The remainder of the Board is as follows:

Directors: Comprised of past Presidents who are in the process of fulfilling their 4 year commitment requirement once their term as President is over. This group constitutes the Membership Committee and are directed to head up committee assignments at the request of the President. Directors have voting rights. At the present time there are only 3 Director slots filled due to Mike Neave's request to retire from the Board effective January 15, 2014.



Ken
Wechselberger

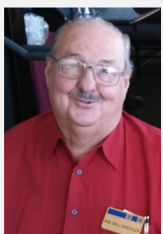


Jon Moss



Jim Harshman

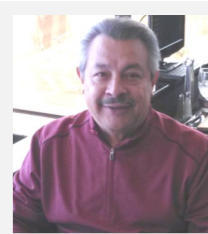
Sub-Directors: Comprised of volunteers who are seen as "prospective officer candidates" and are assigned to committees who are expected to perform special meeting assignments. This group has no voting rights.



Bill Boechler



Hal Hubbard



Jorge Medina

JANUARY 2014 CLUB MEETING—REVIEW OF EVENTS

Director Emeritus: Comprised of past Presidents who have fulfilled their four year commitment to the Board and stay on to perform special functions. This group has no voting rights.

(No Picture of Joe Fetzer)



Don Robins



Jim Smeets



John McAlpine

Members At Large: Comprised of volunteers who have not held the office of Club President that perform special functions for the Club.



Jim Irwin



Ward Atkinson

Retiring Board Members:



Mike Neaves was President in 2010.



Bud Moore was President of the Board in 1997 and has been extremely instrumental in securing GM Executive Speakers for years.

Both of these gentlemen will remain as Club Members and I am sure will lend a helping hand if called on by the Board. We greatly appreciate their many years of service.

Second, history was made during the meeting when, finally, Club Member Ted Vaile got to meet Sheriff Joe and have their pictures taken together.

If you remember, Ted was a member of Sheriff Joe's Sun City West Posse for five years. This picture is a Club "Kodak Moment" if there ever was one and I am sure there is a "framed sign auto-graphed picture" in Ted's future to commemorate the event.



JANUARY 2014 CLUB MEETING—REVIEW OF EVENTS

Third, then there was Joe Arpaio. "Joe is Joe"...it is that simple. He draws a crowd. Anyone who can be elected for six 4-year terms as "America's Toughest Sheriff" deserves a salute. Joe is also an entertaining speaker as well as the ultimate politician. He can really work the crowd as is demonstrated in these pictures. Many thanks to Sheriff Joe for taking time out of his busy schedule to be with the Retirees Club of AZ.

**FEBRUARY 2014 CLUB MEETING—GM SPEAKER AND SPONSOR**

As Larry mentioned in his President's message, our February Club Meeting will be held at Oakwood Country Club located in Sun Lakes. Our GM speaker from Detroit will be Jean Hoglund, Director - Cadillac Sales Operations. Jean joined Cadillac as Director - Sales Operations in May of 2011. In her position, Jean oversees Cadillac's Dealer Network, Training initiatives, Accessories, Customer Experience, Roadside, courtesy Transportation, and Certified Pre-Owned programs, as well as all retail go to market activities.

Prior to joining Cadillac, Hoglund served as Buick and GMC Customer Experience / Dealer Network Manager (2009 - 2011), where she was integral in managing the dealer network footprint in-line with overall throughput and profitability targets. In addition, she launched a long-term initiative developed to educate both wholesale and retail personnel on the overall customer experience. Prior to that, she held the position of Buick and GMC Digital/Field Advertising Manager (2008 - 2009). In this position, she worked in parallel with the regional team on all advertising efforts.

Hoglund joined GM in 1988. Throughout her 23 year career she held various product, marketing brand and field positions.

Jean earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering from Michigan State University in 1989 and a MBA from the University of Michigan in 1995. She currently resides in Northville, MI with her husband, Brian, and their four children.

FEBRUARY 2014 CLUB MEETING—GM SPEAKER AND SPONSOR

Our February meeting Sponsor is one of the finest GM Dealerships in the United States, Coulter Motor Company Tempe selling Cadillac, Buick and GMC Trucks. They are located at 7780 S. Autoplex Loop, Tempe, AZ near the I-10 and West Elliott Road in the Tempe Autoplex. Phone: (480) 302-9780. Many of you may not know this, but Coulter Motor Company is the oldest dealer family in Arizona. Their "flagship store" was founded in 1923. Customers rate Coulter a 4.6 on a 5 point customer satisfaction scale. With that kind of satisfaction score, it is no wonder that the Coulter family see grandparents comeback to repurchase with their kids and grandkids. Coulter Motor Company clearly has been the place to shop for automobiles for generations of Arizonans and it is a pleasure to have them as part of our GM Retirees Club family and we greatly appreciate their support of the Club. So, if you are looking for a great GM dealer to supply any of your automotive needs, go no further, Coulter Motor Company should be your choice. Now, as an added value to our meeting, please come early and look at some of the vehicles that they will have displayed in front of the entrance to the Ballroom.

We also expect to have in attendance Clark Wekerman, Cadillac Zone Manager, Greg DePaolo, Coulter Motor Company, General Manager and several sales people who will be able to answer questions about the GM products on display.

NEW CLUB MEMBER—LAMONT CORP

Lamont was born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan and joined the Navy upon graduation from high school. He always considered himself lucky and, sure enough, WWII ended just after he completed boot camp so he never saw any action. Although he didn't get out of duty entirely, he did receive a one year "early out" after spending some time on the USS Alaska in the region around the Panama Canal. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946.

Being armed with the GI Bill and his musical talents, Lamont was accepted at Central Michigan University in their liberal arts program and majored in music and industrial arts. Yes, the GI Bill helped pay his way through college, but his spending money came from the performances of the 12 piece dance band he started while at the university.

Lamont played the trumpet and loved the "big band sounds" of the 40's & 50's and his band was good enough to play at the Crystal Palladium on Crystal Lake. The famous building was located on the east shore of the lake and home to many of the Big Bands during the era. Unfortunately, the historic building burnt to the ground in 1976, however, many Big Bands still gather in this area for performances to this day.

In 1953, Lamont was hired by General Motors in their "College Graduate In Training" program at the Saginaw Gray Iron Foundry where he spent the first two years doing a multitude on different jobs, plus maintaining a reasonable schedule with his band. It wasn't until 1960 that Lamont was forced to give up his band in favor of being promoted at the Foundry. He has worked various jobs through the years including running the iron casting line, evaluating suggestions in the Personnel Department, then promoted to Line Supervisor then to General Super-



NEW CLUB MEMBER—LAMONT CORP

visor of one of the foundries. There was always plenty of opportunity for advancement, because there were three foundries built in Saginaw over the period of his career. His management jobs included; Methods Engineer, Superintendent Chief Inspector, General Superintendent of Production and his final job before he retired in 1986 after 32 1/2 years, General Superintendent of the Gray Iron Plant. For those who are unaware, gray iron is used to make engine blocks, manifolds, etc. The foundries used to have 6000 employees and melted over 5000 tons of iron every day. Now, the foundries have 800 employees and process aluminum.

When Lamont was asked "what are some of the most memorable events and/or successes you achieved while working at GM"? Here are his responses:

1. His ability to solve very difficult safety related problems in the plant. As most of you know, working in a foundry can be very dangerous. Iron explosions, malfunctioning furnaces and iron heated to 3200 degrees will get your attention. At one point as supervisor, Lamont was able to go 3 1/2 years without a single accident which he attributes to his ability to change the way the foundry was run and solve problems that might occur which would cause injury. People who work in foundries are unique individuals who expect to work in a dangerous environment. It was up to us to do everything possible to make it safe.

2. Most people living in Michigan are aware of the Zilwaukee Bridge being built high because GM needed boats to bring sand into the foundries. By the time it was finished, GM started bring sand in by truck, thus the bridge could have been lower. So, when bridge engineers miscalculated the two sides coming together, GM added insult to injury by stopping the need for boat traffic to run the foundries. True story!

Some of Lamont's hobbies include; Buying and fixing up houses for sale.



Cares for a 1991 Cadillac Allante
and a 1983 Seville



Wood carver

Lamont was married to Monalou and they had two children. Their son is a Master Goldsmith who lives in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and a daughter who is a legal secretary and lives in Las Vegas, NV. Monalou passed away shortly after they moved to Scottsdale. Lamont now is a full time resident of Wickenburg, AZ.

The GM Retirees Club of Arizona welcomes you and it is good to have you as a member.

OAKWOOD COUNTRY CLUB RESERVATION



Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Location: Oakwood Country Club
24215 S. Oakwood Blvd.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
Phone: (480) 895-1159

Directions: From I-10, take the Riggs Road exit and go East. Turn left on E.J. Robson Blvd. Stop at the gate and let them know that you're with the GM Retirees Club and the guard will direct you to the Club Ballroom where the meeting is being held.

Time: 10:30 AM Check-in and Car Display

11:00 AM Bar and Ballroom Open

11:45 AM Business Meeting Begins

12:15 AM Lunch

1:00 PM Guest Speaker - Jean Hoglund, Director
- Cadillac Sales Operations

Cost: Sponsored by **Coulter Cadillac, Buick, GMC in Tempe**

Chairperson: Don Robins

Sign-In Ladies: Judith Robins, Pat Stoner, Del Thomas, Wanda Snyder, Lora Tucker, Sue Smeets

Menu: Custom Buffet Choices:

Baked Parmesan Encrusted Cod

Center Cut New England Cod Loin With a Parmesan Crust and Roasted Tomato Coulis.

Hand Carved Beef Sirloin - Au Jus, Horseradish Sauce

Chef's Vegetables - Mixed Greens, Fresh Grape Tomatoes, Sliced Cucumber, Shredded Carrots.

Baked Potato Casserole

Iron Oaks House Salad - Ranch and Italian Dressing

Warm Rolls and Butter

NO NEED TO CUT AND MAIL RESERVATION COUPON

Just send Email to Jim Irwin at knjirwin@msn.com let him know you will be coming and how many will be in your party.

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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