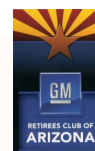


VOLUME 12

MARCH 2014



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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Well, another Club year is about over...only two more meetings. However, the great "member profiles" still keep coming. This month we will feature Mary Lou & Jim Phillips from Peoria. Several years ago, Mary Lou made a formal proposal to the Board requesting that every meeting begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board unanimously passed her resolution and the Pledge of Allegiance has become an integral part of our monthly meetings. Mary Lou and Jim have lived incredible lives and each have their own personal stories that have distinguished themselves. If I could think of a word that would describe Mary Lou it would be "BUSY". In fact, I am struggling as to how to begin to describe her life and accomplishments. I would have to describe Jim as "HIGHLY TECHNICAL". So, sit back and enjoy their stories.

Sincerely, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Isn't it great that some GM dealers want to sponsor our Club? This very much is a reflection of the enthusiasm we have for the GM products they sell and the loyalty we share to GM and its affiliates? Last month, it was Coulter Motor Company Tempe (Cadillac, Buick and GMC) and this month it is Sands Chevrolet in Surprise. We get the full product line coverage and the whole Valley in back-to-back meetings by two GM dealers who have wonderfully supported our Club for many years!

Jerry Moore, General Manager at Sands Chevrolet Surprise, is planning on 160 in attendance, including Buzz Sands and Chevrolet Zone Manager Pete Langenhorst. And, of course, there will be a fantastic buffet and even better product display. Here again, come early, see the product (new, and Sands' wonderful display of "old"), reach out to the Sands' and Chevrolet Division personnel, and meet/greet one another. Before lunch we'll invite Buzz and Jerry to make a few comments, and we'll have a report for you summarizing the results of last month's questions around expanded programming. We're now working on a schedule for fall and winter, and we'll try to have an update on that for you as well.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our guest speaker, after lunch, will be Vanessa Deatherage, Senior Taskforce Program Manager in the Office of the Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne who will discuss consumer scams including identity theft and exploitation. This promises to be compelling, and we will ask what experience along these lines Sands Chevrolet may have experienced! In addition, the Arizona Attorney General's office has published informational pamphlets addressing "Protection Tips" covering "Top Consumer Scams", how seniors can avoid "Scams and Fraud", protecting your personal "Identify Theft" and "Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of the Elderly".

As you know, with dealer sponsored events we ask that attendance be limited to members and their spouses/significant others. This is a courtesy to the dealer in order that we not overwhelm the facilities when a "free lunch" is provided. However, it is OK for you to ask for an exception in appropriate circumstances—neither your officers nor the dealers mean to be arbitrary in this regard. Last month one couple asked if they could bring out of state visitors, one of whom was a GM retiree—of course, just let us know the circumstances with a brief note on the reservation so there is no question as we establish seating. Someone who is single asked if it is OK just to bring a friend—again, yes, and thanks for asking.

Later in this newsletter, you'll see Alan Steffe's Treasurer's Report, and a section on our April 8 meeting at Diamondback Stadium (a/k/a Chase Field). With respect to Al's report, should anyone want it, he has lots of detail behind the numbers, and he is most willing to share that with any member wanting more. Al does a great job of providing our board with detail on all expenditures, including comparisons to past years. Over the next several weeks, this will help us as we work on our upcoming fall/winter schedules. And, finally, keep in mind our "common process" for future reservations. Jim Irwin will have his "bucket" at Sands Chevrolet into which you can deposit your Pre-Reservation and check for our April meeting (guests are welcome and this will be a great venue and program for them). If you miss that alternative, "snail mail" to Jim will still work, but the "bucket" makes it easier for all of us! In fact, for the first time in our newsletter, we are providing you an advanced "Meeting Acknowledgement Form" (Pre-Reservation) for the April Meeting so that you can write your check at home and drop it in Jim Smeets "bucket" before leaving Sands Chevrolet on March 11th. Remember, additional details will be provided in the Club's April Newsletter.

If you have not already done so, get your reservations in for Sands Chevrolet on March 11. Since there is no check involved with the March meeting at Sands Chevrolet, a phone call or e-mail to Jim Irwin will work as well. I look forward to seeing—all?—at Sands. Given the sun today, shorts may be in order (along with a name badge...)!

Best/Larry Sessoms, President

GM Retirees Club of Arizona

TREASURER'S REPORT

It has been my privilege to serve as your Treasurer, now for a third year. And, thanks to the member who asked the question about the use of our 50/50 Raffle proceeds, because it is time to update our membership on our Club's current overall financial status. We started the current fiscal year (May 2013 through April 2014) with a financial balance of \$6,209.69. We have only two major ways to generate funds to cover all expenses that our Club experiences during the year. These are member dues and the recently instituted 50/50 raffle. The raffle was instituted as a means to help keep our annual dues at a reasonable level. This income must offset expenses of printing and postage, any special holiday entertainment or gifts, honoraria or

speaker costs, and subsidizing some meeting or luncheon costs in order to keep member costs for these events at a reasonable level. All special events, such as the NASCAR event, are covered by those participating in those special events.

We have subsidized our member-pay meetings this year to a tune of \$1,020.00. With proceeds of \$634.00 from the 50/50 raffles and \$3,300.00 from member dues, we have been able to increase our current balance to \$8,508.17 at this time. The Board feels that a balance of this amount at this time of our fiscal year is necessary to have a healthy club, especially as we desire to plan meetings and events a full year in advance and will need funds available to make deposits as may be necessary to hold dates for future meetings and luncheons. Later in the year, it may be appropriate to use some of these funds to subsidize a function, but because our upcoming fall/winter schedule is not yet set it is too early to make that judgment. Your Board appreciates every member's support for our activities and would like to see our membership increase rather than decline as we have experienced over the past few years. A strong membership will allow the Board to continue to provide outstanding meeting venues at a reasonable cost.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Steffe, Secretary/Treasurer

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 "Step Aside Shotgun Scramble" where everyone hits 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. More details are shown on the enclosed "Golf Outing Flyer". Please remember that this outing will be to encourage camaraderie—we have room

MARCH GOLF OUTING

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! Reservations and checks need to arrive at Ken Wechselberger's home no later than March 15th. You can also deposit flier and check in Jim Irwin's "bucket" at Sands Chevrolet...saves you 46 cents.

APRIL 8TH MEETING AT DIAMONDBACK STADIUM (AKA CHASE FIELD)



We will have a private, 1 1/4th hour tour of the ballpark (handicap accessible) starting at 10:30AM, followed by lunch in a private room at TGI Friday's overlooking the field. Our guest speaker will be Don Denkinger, a former Major League Baseball umpire best remembered for an incorrect call he made at first base in Game 6 of the 1985 World Series. We encourage you to invite guests for this unique opportunity.

We will be subsidizing this event, asking that you only pay most of the cost of lunch, and the \$5 per person fee for the tour. Parking is included—more details will be provided in our final newsletter of the season later in March, but we publish some details now so you can put your reservation and check in Jim Irwin's "bucket" which will be at the registration table at Sand's Chevrolet.

Cut Here

Pre-Registration Form April 8 Meeting at Diamondback Stadium (a/k/a Chase Field)

Please count on us to be at Diamondback Stadium on April 8th.

Member _____ Significant Other _____ #Guest _____

Lunch Options (Salad buffet & non-alcoholic drinks included; cash bar)—choose 1 per person:

Half Rack BBQ Ribs w/slaw & fries (gluten free) _____ Chicken Cobb Salad (vegetarian option) _____ Vegetarian Pasta _____

Cheeseburger w/fries _____ California Club Sandwich w/fries _____

Dessert: Tennessee Whisky Cake w/ice cream (delicious!) Check here for sugar free option _____

List any other special food needs _____

Lunch \$22.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Tour \$5.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Your Check (Make payable to GM Retirees Club of Arizona)

Total: _____ = \$ _____

MEMO: Please bring your Pre-Registration Form and check to Sands Chevrolet and deposit in Jim Irwin's "Bucket" or mail to Jim Irwin, 535 Topeka Drive, Wickenburg, AZ 85390. Phone # (928) 684-2041. Pre-Registration Forms will also be available at the Check-In counter at Sands Chevrolet. Additional details will be provided in the Club's April Newsletter.

50/50 DRAWING WINNERS

February WINNERS!



Jim Shepherd \$83



El Schlesinger \$62



Jan Foldenaur \$40



Paul Levesque \$20

You could be a WINNER too!

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

CLUB MEMBERS—JIM & MARY LOU PHILLIPS



Mary Lou (Castillo) Cooley Phillips (Nic Name Lu Lu) was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ one of 11 children - 4 sisters and 6 brothers. The family was very poor, living in a three bedroom house in the central city. The one thing unique about the Castillo family is that Mary Lou has had 11 siblings in the United States Marine Corp (brothers, nephews, cousins and second cousins), as well as two who joined the Army/Army Air Force. At 3 1/2, WWII broke out which caused Mary Lou's parents great concern. She remembers sitting by the radio with her parents listening to news about the war and when the Star Spangled Banner was played over the radio they all used to stand and pay honor to the flag. On October 26, 1944, the Castillo family got that dreaded telegram that her brother had been killed in action off of the Peleliu Islands. However, her other brothers and cousins all came home safe. The Marine Corp meant so much to her while growing up she promised herself when she was old enough, she would join the Corp. Now,

thank goodness for a level headed Mom, she told Mary Lou NO Way. However, Mary Lou did fulfill her dream by being accepted into the Young Marines of Mesa after many years of volunteer work with them. So, can you see why Mary Lou would be the driving force behind the GM Retirees Club adopting her request for the *Pledge of Allegiance* being recited before all of our meetings?



Mary Lou's father worked construction and part time as a janitor. Her Mom was a "stay-at-home" Mom, both supporting her education and extracurricular activities. To say she was an athlete would be an understatement.

CLUB MEMBERS — JIM & MARY LOU PHILLIPS

Mary Lou played varsity "fast pitch" softball, tennis and was the youngest varsity basketball player for Phoenix Union High up to that time. If the teams needed a "spokesperson", it was Mary Lou. As if playing varsity sports and studying weren't enough to keep her busy, she worked part time all four years until she graduated.

After high school, she began working for the First National Bank of Arizona in the Collection and Credit Department. In 1957, Mary Lou met her first husband who also worked in the finance business. Together, they had two boys and two girls and seven grandchildren. She concentrated on raising her children until 1966, when at the age of 26 she moved her family to Oxnard California and began working in a branch office of the United California Bank learning all aspects of the banking business. But, besides raising her children, Mary Lou couldn't stay away from playing softball. She organized, managed, coached and played in the first

woman's city fast pitch softball league in Oxnard. 4 1/2 years later it was off to Fresno, CA.

Fresno, CA 1970 - 1997: This time period in her life still focused mostly on her children taking them to school, sports events, fishing and golf. Again, softball was a big part of her life and for 4 years Mary Lou played in the Fresno City League and the Clovis League. But then she was hired by GMAC in their Accounting and Credit Departments where she worked for 10 years until her early retirement in 1992. This was also the time of her life where she first began her volunteer work at the County Health Hospital and her involvement with "family sponsored" foreign students in cooperation with International English Institute—Home Stay Program and Fresno State University. The foreign student sponsorship activity changed her life and that of her children forever.

Overall, from 1982 through 1991 she estimates that she housed and taught English to over 45 students from places like Indonesia, Lebanon, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Columbia and Yemen. Mary Lou and her children became very close with their guest students and actually made several trips to their homes overseas. This truly was a world-wide learning experience was incredible for her family and very rewarding. Three very memorable students come to mind; The first of which were two boys from Malaysia. Most of the groups only stayed for three months, but the second group consisted of students from Japan. One of the Japanese students by the name of Yuko stayed for nine months. Upon completion, Yuko returned to teach English. Mary Lou even visited Tokyo to attend Yuko's wedding. Oh yes, and they will never forget Mohammed from Saudi Arabia.



Mary Lou signed up to house foreign students from all parts of the world.

1993 brought Mary Lou another job change. She went to work for Browning Farris as their Credit and Collection Manager plus she volunteered to raise money for EPU and was recognized for her

CLUB MEMBERS – JIM & MARY LOU PHILLIPS

efforts by being the #1 Collector nationwide. In 1997, Browning Farris transferred her to their Phoenix Office in her same position to be closer to family. But the Phoenix office was very disorganized so she left and began major volunteer work at Hospice of the Valley and Banner Hospital.

In 2005, Mary Lou started the Delightful Divas of Arizona which is a worldwide organization that brings new people together for charitable purposes. In order to raise funds to purchase school supplies for poor school children in Phoenix. She also is a member of a second group of Red Hats that just meet for lunch. Today, Mary Lou belongs to League of Our Own Social Club which meets once per year to honor the ASU Women's Softball Team. She also is an honorary member of the East Valley Saguaro League and her Phoenix '50 team uniform and picture were given to the Prescott Women's Softball Hall of Fame to be displayed. Mary Lou met her husband Jim 11 years ago at a Maricopa County "Medal of Honor Luncheon. Busy Girl Lu Lu!



Jim was born and raised in New Brunswick, N.J. and has one brother. His father worked in Account Sales and his Mother was a "stay-at-home" Mom. Upon graduation from high school, Jim went to work as a laborer in a lumber yard and in January of 1949 he signed up for a 3 year enlistment in the Army. Basic training and his advanced training took place Ft. Bliss, TX. He graduated in 1951 from The Artillery School Antiaircraft and Guided Missiles Branch specializing in RADAR Maintenance and Repair. Unfortunately, the Korean War started in June of 1950 and President Truman extended everyone's stay in the service for the duration of the war. Once the Korean War was over, Jim began his college career at Arizona State University and graduated with an Electrical Engineering Degree.



Jim's time spent in the Army was no "walk-in-the-park". His ride to Korea was by ship with 6,000 other troops through Japan. When he arrived in Korea, January 1952, he was assigned to the 8th Field Artillery Battalion attached to the 27th Wolfhound Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division - Counter Mortar RADAR Team stationed and "dug-in" near the Iron Triangle and Heart Break Ridge, sites of many famous fierce battles during the war. Of course, being located North of the 38th Parallel within 1 - 2 miles from the front lines wasn't all that relaxing since his units were constantly subjected to enemy fire.

His specialty....assisting the infantry in detecting enemy mortar and/or artillery firings, plot their location and to supply firing data to the artillery fire control center using RADAR (Radio Detection And Ranging) allowing the artillery gun crews to return fire. So, Jim's job description was pretty clear, dig several big bunkers, setup your equipment, read the data and supply it to the gunners so everyone could stay alive. On occasion, the Air Force flew Napalm bombing missions using their data.

CLUB MEMBERS—JIM & MARY LOU PHILLIPS

Then, do it all over again when you are forced to move. In fact, one of Jim's most memorable events of the war was the time a mortar landed in his fox hole above his head, but didn't go off. Just stuck in the mud. That will get your attention fast! Jim left Korea in December 1952 and was honorably discharged soon after leaving Korea late 1952 with all the appropriate honors.

In addition, on June 1, 2010, the 60th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, Jim and other Korean War Veterans were sent a personal letter from the President of the Republic of Korea honoring and thanking him for his selfless, courageous sacrifices in helping preserve freedom for the Korean people. He reminded Korean Veterans of the promise they made to build a free, strong and prosperous country and that they have kept their promise to the American people. He bestowed their countries warmest gratitude and deepest respect and thanked them on behalf of the Korean people.



As one might expect from understanding Jim military career, you knew his civilian job was going to be in a technical field. Here is a recap of his work career:

- Westinghouse Corporation. Assembling new auto pilots. 1 1/2 years.
- ITT Research Lab on Missile Guidance Systems and Airborne Navigation Lab (TACAN). While working at ITT Jim was issued "Secret Clearance" credentials. 7 1/2 years
- Motorola Military Electronics on Guided Missile Test Sets, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Crystal Jet Propulsion Labs working on Noise Filtration Devices.
- FAA Final Inspection Engineer for Emergency Locator Transmitter Systems and wrote the FAA Manuals and Procedure Books.
- Space Data Corporation.
- Litton Industries where he finished his career as Quality Assurance Engineer Manager. Much of the time at Litton he spent working on missile nose cones, night vision products for Navy Seals and worldwide foreign governments. 1976 - May 2003

CLUB MEMBERS—JIM & MARY LOU PHILLIPS

When asked "what was the most memorable event he could remember while working"? He said having the privilege of working with Albert Einstein's Grandson.

Mary Lou and Jim, we are extremely proud to have you as Members of the GM Retirees Club of Arizona. Your life stories are truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing them with us.

SANDS CHEVROLET RESERVATION



Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Location: Sands Chevrolet
16991 W. Waddell
Surprise, AZ 85388
Phone: (623) 455-7777

Directions: The dealership is located West of Hwy 303 south of W. Bell Road. If you are coming from the East Valley, take the 202 West to the I-10 West to Hwy 303 and turn North. From the Sun Lakes area, take the I-10 to Hwy 303 and turn North. Look for W. Waddell and the dealer is located one block to the West of the Hwy 303. If you are travelling from Scottsdale, take the 101 Loop West to W. Bell Road and turn right. Travel to Hwy 303 and turn left and begin to look for W. Waddell which is several mile down Hwy 303.

Time: 10:30 AM Check-in New/Old Car Review
11:45 AM Business Meeting Begins
12:00 AM Lunch
1:00 PM Guest Speaker

Vanessa Deatherage, Senior Taskforce Program
Manager in the Office of the Arizona Attorney
General Tom Horne— Senior Scams

Menu: Custom Buffet Choices:

Chicken Alfredo
Tucson Meat Lasagna
Citrus Caesar Salad
Warm Rolls and Butter

Beverages: Coffee and Iced Tea

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.

MARCH GOLF OUTING



RETIREES CLUB

Special Event Golf Outing

Golf Fee of \$75.00 Per Person Includes Cart, Lunch, Gift Bag and Prizes!

18 Holes of Golf

8:00am Shotgun Start

Step Aside Scramble Format
All levels with Handicap

Please ADVISE
if you are
forming a foursome.
Otherwise, we will
attempt
to form teams of
equal skill based
upon
Handicaps submitted.



Oakwood Country Club

24215 S. Oakwood Blvd.

Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

(480) 895-1159

Check-in Begins at 7:AM in the Pro Shop. Please arrive no later than 7:30AM

Oakwood Country Club

Name: _____ Handicap: _____ \$75.00

Name: _____ Handicap: _____ \$75.00

Name: _____ Handicap: _____ \$75.00

Name: _____ Handicap: _____ \$75.00

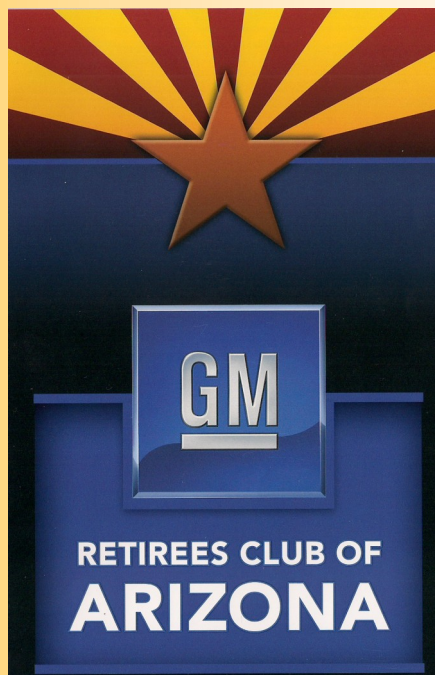
Please make checks payable to:
Ken Wechselberger
16002 W. Edgemont Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85395



ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2014

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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