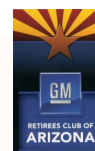


THE CLUB REPORTER

APRIL 2014



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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Let it be known that if you're going to put out a "first class" monthly E-Newsletter you can't spend 10 days in Daytona Beach and a week in San Diego and "getter done". So, in order not to botch someone's life story, I have decided to concentrate on our next featured speaker, Don Denkinger, former Major League Baseball Umpire who will have some great stories to share at our April 8th Diamondback Stadium meeting. We will continue with our normal great "Member Feature Stories" in October with a great lineup already on the drawing board. I thought a story about two of our members who have become professionals on searching Ancestry.com and what they have discovered about their family trees would stimulate your interest as well as tapping into the minds and backgrounds of our two oldest active past Club Presidents. Next year, antique car collections will also come to the forefront, because we sure have some members with great collections. So thanks for all your kind words concerning the quality of the Club's E-Newsletter and next year we hope to carry on the great tradition we have started.

Regards, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Wow, snowbirds are packing up already because it's getting hot in Arizona and the north is thawing out. I just had an e-mail about our December 2014 Club meeting which is to be a holiday celebration hosted by Liberty Buick—seasons are confusing! I've sent a nice note to Buzz Sands thanking him and his crew for a great time there. Ward Atkinson has done the same to Vanessa Deatherage who gave us an informative presentation. Particularly her point that answering a solicitor's phone call puts you on yet another list came as a lesson to me—best to ignore them and not answer, but hang up quick if you answer and that is what it is. I love practical advice!

A special thanks goes out to our past Club President, Mike Schumal, for his gift of a scale model rail car full of 1957 Chevrolets presented to Buzz Sands during our meeting at the dealership. As some of you know, Mike retired from the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors and knows a

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Don Denkinger
- April 8th—Chase Field Tour

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

little about the rail road business. This was an authentic scale model showing incredible detail. Buzz Sands is a lucky man and I am sure he will have it on display in his office for quite some time. Thank you Mike. It was very thoughtful of you. And a big thanks to Buzz Sands for a great meeting.

I hope most members and, as many guests as you like to invite, will join Faye and me at Diamondback Stadium (a/k/a Chase Field) on April 8th. 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. Thanks to Bill Boechler who helped me organize this event. Detailed instructions and directions will be provided to you later in this newsletter.

Our board is still working on the schedule for our next season, but many of the details are coming together and it promises to be a fun fall and winter with two dealer sponsored events (Liberty Buick as noted above, and the new Arrowhead Cadillac dealership with a GM executive speaker in January). By the end of this month we should have other venues and activities pinned down. And, of course, we're committed to a bus trip to Tucson and the Biosphere on February 24, 2015. This will be a first for our club. As we discussed at our Sands Chevrolet meeting, we are working to modify the typical bus scenario by having two Phoenix Valley pickup points, and by including a nice time to socialize in a private room with cocktails and dinner before we head home. This follows on our other efforts to bring to you more opportunity to socialize at our various meetings. We will post the fall/winter schedule on our club website as soon as we have it reasonably complete (www.gmretireesclubofarizona.com).

Faye and I are snowbirds, so we'll be heading for our summer home north of Seattle on Puget Sound before long. Of course, my career was in Michigan, and Faye's twin sister and brother are there with their families along with many old friends, so we'll likely find time to get back there as well during the summer months. If during the summer you should have any questions about our club, don't hesitate to e-mail me: Lrssms@aol.com Our Board and I stay in regular contact, and we welcome any input. Have a wonderful summer season.

Best/Larry Sessoms, President

50/50 DRAWING WINNERS

March WINNERS!



Bill Luffman

\$83



Cathi Hubbard

\$62



Harry Cameron

\$40



Ron Cradit

\$20

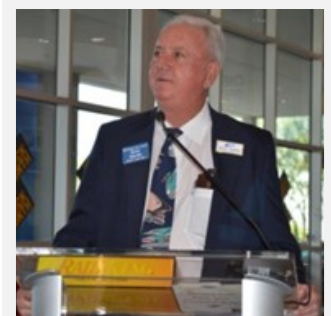
You could be a WINNER too!

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

SANDS CHEVROLET MEETING PICTURE GALLERY



Buzz Sands Accepting Gift from
Mike Schumal



Dealer Host—Buzz Sands

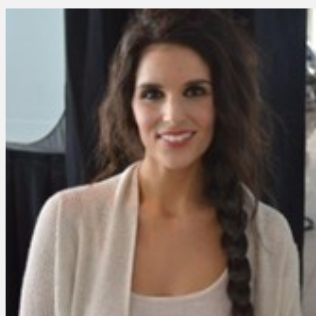
Sands Fantastic Old Car Display



Sands Chevrolet Corvette Display



Great Turn out!



Vanessa Deatherage

AZ Attorney General's Office

Ward Atkinson—Event Co-ordinator



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

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Location:

Diamondback Stadium
TGI Friday's Front Row Sports Grill
401 E. Jefferson Street

10:30 AM Check-In For **Stadium Tour Only**
(Is handicap accessible)
11:45 AM Check-In For Club Meeting
(Club Members must check-in)
12:15 Noon Lunch
1:00 PM Guest Speaker - Don Denkinger,
former Major League Baseball Umpire

Event Instructions:**Sign-In Ladies:**

Wanda Snyder, Lora Tucker, Sue Smeets, Kathy Irwin

If you are **going on the "stadium tour"**, please arrive at the ticket office by no later than 10:30am. The tour starts at the "ticket office" located on the West side of the stadium just North of the parking lot. The tour is handicap accessible. So, as you leave your car, walk North on S. 4th Street for about 1/2 block and you will see the GM Retirees sign where the tour will begin. Please be prompt. After the tour, you will be directed to our Club Meeting Room located at TGI Friday's Front Row Sports Grill in the stadium.

If you are **not going on the tour**, please arrive at the ticket office located at the corner of E. Jefferson Street and S. 4th Street anytime after 11:00am, get a drink and enjoy the view. The meeting will be held in the large private room at TGI Friday's located in the stadium over-looking the field. You can access the TGI Friday's by taking the dedicated elevator up to the restaurant. Check-in will begin at 11:45am. **Please look for the GM Retirees sign that will be posted for your convenience.**

Directions: **From the West Valley**, travel East on the I-10 and exit onto 7th Avenue and turn right (South). Go to W. Jefferson Street and turn left (East). W. Jefferson turns into E. Jefferson then look for the stadium. Turn right (South) onto S. 4th Street and travel the full length of the stadium which is on your left, cross the rail road tracks and park in the lot to the left.

From the East Valley, travel West on the I-10 and exit onto 7th Street and turn left (South). Go past E. Jefferson Street and the stadium and turn right (West) onto E. Buchanan. Go to S 4th Street and turn right (North) and park in the lot on the right just before the rail road tracks.

This is a "free parking lot" for TGI Friday's guests, so be sure to bring your parking ticket with you to the event in order to have it validated. No other parking lots are free, so if you want to save some cash, park here.

----- Cut Here -----

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

Member _____ Significant Other _____ #Guests _____

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 _____ = \$ _____

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

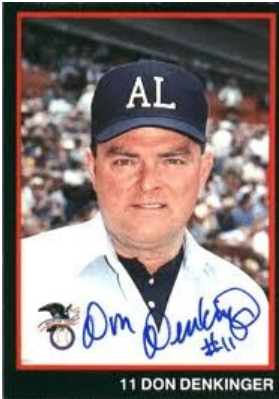
Tour \$5.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Mail to: Jim Irwin, 535 Topeka Drive, Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Total: _____ = \$ _____

NO LATER THAN APRIL 1ST PHONE: (928) 684-2041

DON DENKINGER—GUEST SPEAKER



Donald Anton Denkinger, born August 28, 1936 (age 77) in Cedar Falls, IA. Don is a former Major League Baseball umpire who worked in the American League from 1969 - 1998. Denkinger wore uniform number 11, when the AL adopted uniform numbers in 1980. He is best remembered for an incorrect call he made at first base in Game 6 of the 1985 World Series.

Denkinger attended Wartburg College where he was on the wrestling team. He became interested in umpiring while serving in the Army from 1957 -1959. He began umpiring in the minor league in 1960, joined the AL in April 1969 and became an AL crew chief in 1977. He umpired in four World Series - '74, '80, '85 and 1991. He is one of seven umpires who have worked in two "perfect games". Don was also the home plate umpire for Nolan Ryan's sixth no-hitter on June 11, 1990.



Despite his long and illustrious career, Denkinger is probably best remembered by baseball fans for a blown call he made at first base in Game 6 of the 1985 World Series played on October 26th. The St. Louis Cardinals led the Kansas City Royals by 3 games to 2. The Cardinals had taken a 1-0 lead in the 8th inning on a single by little-used backup catcher Brian Harper. Todd Worrell came into the game to pitch for the Cardinals in the 9th inning first facing Jorge Orta, the leadoff batter for the Kansas City Royals. Orta hit a slow roller to first baseman Jack Clark, who tossed to Worrell covering first base. To make a long story short, the TV cameras and photographs taken of the play showed Orta out by at least a half a step, but Denkinger, umpire at first base, called him safe.

Denkinger refused to reverse his call and all hell broke loose. The Royals went on to win Game 6 by a score of 2-1. What's even worse is that Denkinger worked behind home plate in Game 7 and the Kansas City Royals would go on to win Game 7 in an 11-0 blowout taking their first and only World Series Trophy.



In closing, I think it would be fair to say that the one missed call debacle at first base changed the whole complexion of the 1985 World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals. In the immediate aftermath of the 1985 World Series, Denkinger received many hateful letters and death threats from Cardinal fans. Two St. Louis disc jockeys went so far as to reveal Denkinger's telephone number and home address.

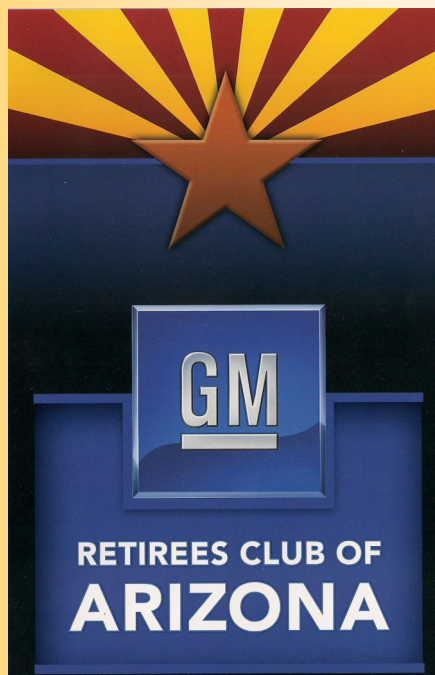
Ironically, the strongest part of Don's career likely followed the 1985 events; two years later he was behind the plate for the All-Star Game, and was again named crew chief for the 1988 ALCS, 1991 World Series and 1992 ALCS. He is only one of four umpires to have been selected as crew chief for the ALCS three times.

More than 20 years after the fateful events in Kansas City in October 1985, Don is going to be standing before the GM Retirees Club membership at Diamondback Stadium telling you about his experiences with the likes of Sparky Anderson, Kurt Gibson and Al Kaline. Don has regularly appeared at sports memorabilia shows (including one in St. Louis) willing to autograph photos depicting "The Call". Denkinger owns a painting featuring himself, Todd Worrell, and Jorge Orta involved in the play, claiming that he keeps it to remind himself that no one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes.

Now, if you are a baseball fan and you miss this event you will be disappointed for life. So, come out a see, hear and ask questions of one of the greats. A "no-show" will mean you missed out on a little bit of baseball history.

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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GO TO WWW.GMRETIREE.COM**