

## THE CLUB REPORTER

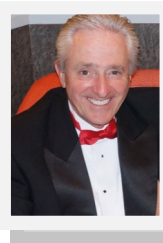
NOVEMBER 2014



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



The answer is "NO". No, the Club will not be offering Native American Hoop Dancing or Flute lessons to our members as part of its 2014/2015 Fall Programming. Now, I know some of you "Hula Hoop Dance Champions" out there got excited when you saw Tony Duncan perform at the Rustler's Rooste, but there is a limit to how far we will go to provide you with outstanding programming. However, it was a great event which we hope you enjoyed. A big thanks to Hal Hubbard and Jon Moss for all their hard work in putting this program together. The meeting pictures came out great and you can enjoy some later in this newsletter.

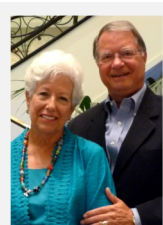
This month's Member Feature Article is about the life and career of Mike Schumal, GM Electro Motive Division. For those of you who attended last year's meeting at Sands Chevrolet, you might remember him as the gentleman who presented Bud Sands with the model railroad car loaded with 1957 Chevrolets. Mike's story is especially meaningful to me because growing up and being poor on Detroit's Northwest side, there wasn't much to do. For weekly entertainment, Mom would load my sister and I in the car and drive to the West Outer Drive train crossing next to the GM Diesel Plant where exactly at 7:37PM "The Flyer" would be passing at high speed arriving in Detroit from Chicago. And you know...it was always "On Time"! We loved trains...and who would have thought that one day you would get to meet the GM man that ran the plant that made the trains we were watching? I hope you enjoy his story as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Sincerely, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nov 12 PebbleCreek Golf Resort
- Dec 9 Palmbrook C.C.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We've talked about changes in our Club, and the desire of your Club Board (and hopefully of you, the members we serve) to make us more social whenever we gather. Are we going in the right direction with entertainment, new destinations, a bus trip to Biosphere2 Earth Systems Science Research Facility, DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, ending the day with an outstanding social hour and dinner at the beautiful Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf Course? Hopefully you will give thought to that this time around as we prepare for our annual election of officers, and perhaps more important, seek new "blood" on our board of directors. We love volunteers, just like we love new ideas!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

And, speaking of new, I hope all had the opportunity to read the four page article about GM CEO Mary Barra in the October 6 "Time" magazine where she is featured on the cover. In the article she presents a nice and respective balance between the GM most of us served, and that of today. Nice credit as well to Mark Reuss who many of the engineers among us knew. The other big GM news I recently read was the acquisition by Warren Buffet of the Van Tuyl dealer network. Recall that in January we are to be hosted by the new Arrowhead Cadillac in Peoria, which is part of that dealer network. Somewhat tongue and cheek, Ken Wechselberger has asked if Mr. Buffet might not be a guest speaker (don't hold your breath, but we all learned long ago it doesn't hurt to ask!).

Of course our November meeting is at PebbleCreek, with GM Central Office providing Anita Burke, Vehicle Chief Engineer—Mid Size Trucks as our executive speaker via live video hookup as last year, with opportunity for Q & A. We'll be experimenting a bit with technology this time, in that we will have the live video directly into the Eagle's Nest Ballroom. Our technology guru John McAlpine will be working with me and others to get that right on our end—assuming all goes well, we will have moved our use of technology to a point that it will allow us more interesting opportunities for speakers in the future. Once again, please come early and just "socialize" before the meeting—and wear your name tag!

Finally, I want to emphasize that time is short; that is, we really do need commitments for the Biosphere2 bus trip by December 1. We have flexibility with numbers everywhere except with the bus company which is the biggest part of our financial commitment. After December 1, depending on how seats are working on the bus (we have two 54 seat buses tentatively reserved), we may be able to make small adjustments to maximize load, but we really need your help by signing up before December 1. We have been assured by the Management of the Biosphere that the tour is 80% handicap friendly. Faye and I are "in", we hope you will be as well.

Looking forward to seeing all in November at PebbleCreek.

Best/Larry & Faye Sessoms

## DEATH NOTICE



We regret to inform you of the passing of Club Member **JOHN EDWARD STONER**, age 91, WWII Veteran and loving husband of Pat Stoner for 45 years. John passed away peacefully at the Hospice of the Valley's Dobson House, Chandler, Arizona on September 24, 2014. A US Navy Sea Bee who participated in the Invasion of France (D-Day June 6-7, 1944) and Okinawa conflicts who was highly decorated and permanently disabled in the war. John was a loyal 26 1/2 year veteran for General Motors Fisher Body Division and his last position was Head Cashier servicing 14 plants. Services were held at the Sun Lakes Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 30, 2014. John, we will miss you.

**FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2014-2015****Sunday, November 9:**

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series "Quicken Loan 500" Race, Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, AZ.

**Wednesday, November 12:**

Meeting will be at the PebbleCreek Eagle's Nest Ballroom which is located on the EAST side of PebbleCreek Parkway. A live video feed with Anita Burke, Vehicle Chief Engineer - Mid Size Trucks will be our featured speaker.

**Tuesday, December 9:**

Meeting will be sponsored by Liberty Buick (Autumn Henderson), but will be held at the Palmbrook Country Club, Sun City, AZ. A Christmas program is scheduled including a holiday quartet.

**Tuesday, January 13:**

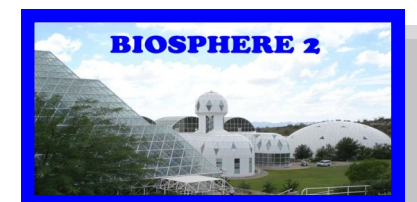
Meeting will be at Arrowhead Cadillac with lunch sponsored by the dealer (Mike Scarfia, Sales Manager; Rick Meewes, General Manager). A GM executive speaker has been requested.

**Tuesday, February 10:**

Meeting will be at the Sun Lakes Country Club. Our guest speaker will be from the FBI to talk about criminal and cyber investigations which impact our members.

**Tuesday, February 24:**

This will be a "special event" and will feature a Bus Trip to the Biosphere2, DeGrazia Gallery In The Sun and dinner at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort. All members will receive a special announcement flyer for sign up which will be published before our November 12th meeting. Reservation Acknowledgement Forms will also be made available at the sign-in table. Trip reservations will have to be in by December 1, 2014 so that bus arrangements can be confirmed. *Tour is 80% mobility challenged friendly.*





## FALL &amp; WINTER SCHEDULE 2014-2015

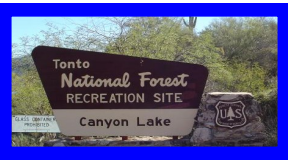


## Tuesday, March 10:

Our meeting will be at Luke Air Force Base and will include a tour, lunch and a special guest speaker.



**March Golf Outing—Date TBD:** Ken Wechselberger & Larry Sessoms will work on this activity to be held at PebbleCreek in March of 2015.



## Tuesday, April 7:

This will be a "special event" meeting held at Canyon Lake which will include a Canyon Lake Boat Tour with lunch in a private room in the restaurant at the dock.

## 50/50 WINNERS OCTOBER 2014



Ward Atkinson \$63.00



Judith Robins \$41.00



Pat Stoner \$21.00

## OCTOBER'S RUSTLER'S ROOSTE EVENT





OCTOBER'S RUSTLER'S ROOSTE EVENT



Tony Dunkin, Larry, & Violet Dunkin



Violet Performing  
SHAWL Dance



Tony Performing  
HOOP Dance



**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—MIKE SCHUMAL**

It is not very often that I conduct a Club Member interview and am so amazed at what I am hearing that I don't know where to begin the article. Mike Schumal's was one of those interviews. Everything from the hardships he suffered while growing up in Chicago during the depression, the lessons he learned having to earn every penny for his lively hood and paying his way through college, to the successes he had in his career. Not to mention the influence he had on the GM Retirees Club of AZ when he was President in 1994. So, if I break his story down into these pieces maybe I can explain to you what an inspiration he has been to those who he has come in contact with over the span of his lifetime.

Mike was born and raised in Chicago near the Stockyards area. His Dad was very mechanically oriented and worked in the moving and hauling business, but in 1943 went to work for Electro-Motive in LaGrange, Illinois in assembly, welding and actually building "F Series" locomotives. His Mother was, for the most part, a "stay at home" Mom taking care of him and his two brothers. So, with five mouths to feed, it was pretty much Mike's challenge at a very early age to find some sort of work to earn spending money and meet school expenses.

Mike attended Saint Rita's, a private Catholic High School, and was very determined to get an education. He had to work to pay his way through high school and was given that opportunity by working for a family who owned a meat packing business. Mike not only was able to make money for school, but was given the opportunity to gain unbelievable life skills by being allowed to participate in all aspects of the business. Everything from packaging, marketing to vehicle maintenance. Can you imagine driving a meat delivery truck and having your own route selling product from the back of your truck at age 14? Yep, and Mike was too young to drive and had no drivers license. This setup some unbelievable stories, like the time Mike was locked in his cold meat truck for 15 minutes by someone who had robbed a store on his route. The store owners on Mike's route will always remember how mature he was for his age and the 'good will' he developed in working with them to make sure they were successful.



## CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—MIKE SCHUMAL



There was never any doubt that Mike would attend college. His years at Saint Rita High School helped shape his life. He always wanted to fly or be in the aerospace industry and the

school offered specialized courses such as Aerodynamics Shop, math, science and business with some engineering. But, when Mike's Dad told him about the GM Electro-Motive's Co-Op Program, it was a no brainer. In 1948, after graduating from high school, he was hired by GM Electro-Motive Division as an hourly employee and six years later he was accepted at GMI and began his college career. His co-op experiences at Electro-Motive during his schooling were invaluable. He performed every job at Plant 2. However, as most men were during this period, in 1951 Mike was drafted into the Army and spent all of his active duty stateside and was discharged in 1953. (3rd Army)

In 1950, Mike married Florence and 64 years later is able to look back on the fact that they have two lovely children (boy & girl). He met her in Chicago on a street car. Florence was a secretary for the Metro Group (Tribune Tower), Colliers Magazine, a Medical Secretary at Fort Benning, GA and at a medical practice in Chicago. She was married to Mike while he was at GMI and helped him work his way through college. Their son lives in Phoenix and works for Monster.com as a recruiter and their daughter teaches on line courses for the University of Phoenix and is currently working in Denver on her doctorate.



In order to put Mike's business career in perspective, I would like to provide you with some interesting facts about the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors. The initial company began in 1922 manufacturing rail motor cars. The original pioneers immediately made a name for themselves and as a result, caught the attention of General Motors executives who were willing to put their massive resources into a like manufacturing start-up. As a consequence, when the revolution of the

railroad diesel locomotive took off, GM was there with resources and "know-how" to make it happen. Together, they took the railroad business to new heights and revolutionized the way America perceived the business.

**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—MIKE SCHUMAL**

So, in 1958 when Mike graduated from GMI with a Mechanical Engineering Degree they put him to work on a broad number of jobs over the years and by the time he retired in 1986 he was Plant Superintendent of the 1M sq. ft. Plant #2 in Chicago located in the Pullman Area at 900 East 103rd Street - 25 miles South-east of Plant #1 in LaGrange, Illinois which is the headquarters of

EMD and the original site of EMD/GM locomotive manufacturing which started there in 1935. Basically, during his EMD career, he also served as the Plant Superintendent of the Locomotive Plant, Plant Superintendent of the Engine Plant, Superintendent of Production/Material Control - Fabrication Plant and many other various manufacturing engineering assignments and special projects. He was known as a specialist in "trouble shooting" complicated problems and streamlining manufacturing processes. It became his mission to solve problems in the plants to get all of the parts to come together on schedule to produce one complete locomotive. If you were to ask Mike what he felt was his greatest accomplishment, he would tell you he was most proud to have been helpful in taking the manufacturing operation into the computer age by using the computer as a manufacturing tool. Creating standard data sets and having all computers in all locations talk to each other was his ultimate goal and achievement.

In 1988, Mike and Florence decided to come out to the Phoenix/Scottsdale area to vacation and play some golf as well as visit family and they fell in love with the area. In 1990, they moved to Ahwatukee and became a member of the GM Retirees Club of AZ. But just being a member is not Mike's style. In 1994 he took over as President and things began to happen.



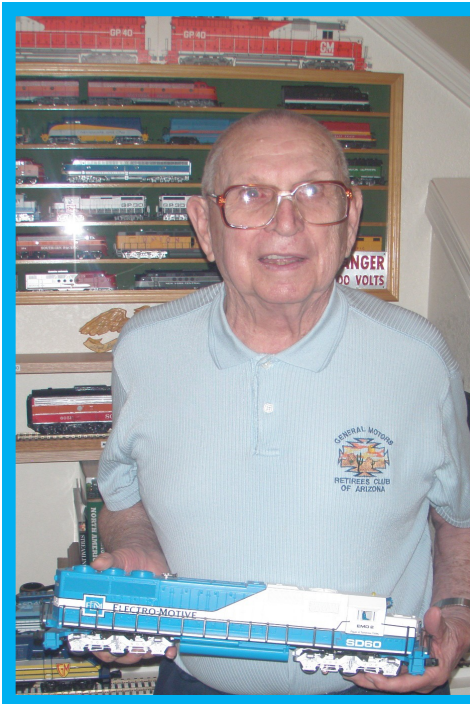
He and Dick Poindexter hold the title of "Most Energetic Presidents". Both men created lots of excitement by using their creativity in determining new types of Club meetings.



**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—MIKE SCHUMAL**

Mike developed a new Club logo and monogrammed them on high quality shirts, sweaters, golf windbreakers and jackets and made them available at reasonable prices to Club Members. He organized "dealer appreciation lunches", recognized Members who served in the US armed services and held luncheons with car displays open to the public. Mike loved the Club and has always been one of its greatest supporters.

Now, in Mike's spare time when not at work at EMD or active with Club affairs, he served as the 1975-1976 President of the GMI Alumni Association, was Selective Service Draft Board President and member of the same local board that he was drafted from in 1951. He was elected Precinct Committeeman in DePage County, Illinois, Advisor and Chairman of the Area Counseling Committee - Junior Achievement of Chicago and HOA Board Member - Townes of Mountain Park Ranch, Ahwatukee.



I know you're not going to believe this, but Mike's primary hobby is collecting model trains. Most of Mike's train collecting started in the 1970's when his son was young and trips to the hobby shop were frequent and the trains were more for play than for show. More recently, Mike took notice of a picture of an EMD Southern Pacific E9 locomotive #6051 built in 1954 restored and in running condition currently on display at the California State Railway Museum in Sacramento. The #6051 served on the Southern Pacific Railroad from 1955-1969 before being retired. This very unit was one that Mike had a chance to work with a test crew to run it and check it out before it was shipped to the Southern Pacific Railroad. He was a freshman GMI student at the time. His EMD locomotive (O-Scale & HO-Scale) collecting started recently and is approaching a hundred units. Most of the units are new and will belong to his grandson and will be played with instead of being just looked at and admired by his grandpa.

**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—MIKE SCHUMAL**

In closing, I would like to give you a few quotes from Mike which pretty much sums up his feelings about his career with the General Motors Electro-Motive Division. "How can any one man ever find a job doing what he loves to do, starting at the bottom of the organization in the lowest paying position and end up at the top earning more than he can imagine he would ever earn?" "Plus, getting your college education paid for while earning 40 years of wages which put food on the table, provided for my children and a

great standard of living". "GM Electro-Motive gave me that opportunity and I will always be grateful."

Mike and Florence, the Club salutes you for what you have done for the Club over the years. We can't say thanks enough!

**ARIZONA AWIM UPDATE**

The Arizona AWIM (A World In Motion) team does it again! Derek Logan, a key member of the Arizona AWIM Team, was just awarded the 2014 Bill Agnew Award for Outstanding AWIM Volunteers! The Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE) Foundation only gives out one of these awards each year. Congratulations Derek!



The Arizona AWIM Team has now won 9 awards from SAE since 2007, for either Outstanding Volunteer or Outstanding Teacher. This is one reason why our AWIM program in Arizona is so successful. When you team up outstanding volunteers and teachers, and also have outstanding students, you get a great program.

During the 2013/2014 school year we impacted 1956 students in 12 schools and we are already off to a good start for the 2014/2015 school year. Stay tuned for more program details.

Happy  
Thanksgiving

A decorative illustration of a cornucopia overflowing with pumpkins, gourds, and autumn produce. The cornucopia is brown and has a large spout. It is surrounded by various pumpkins in orange, yellow, and green, along with gourds and leaves. The background is a light blue gradient.

## PEBBLECREEK-MEETING REGISTRATION FORM



**Date:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014

**Location:** PebbleCreek Golf Resort  
Eagle's Nest Ballroom  
3003 N. 164th Ave.  
Goodyear, AZ 85395

**Directions:** Going West on the I-10, exit at PebbleCreek Parkway and go North. Continue past W. Virginia Ave. to Club House Drive and turn Right (East) Stop at gate and they will direct you to the Eagle's Nest Ballroom

**Time:** 10:30AM - 11:30AM Check In  
11:30AM - 12:30PM Lunch  
12:30PM - 1:30PM Meeting Presentations

**Cost:** \$22.00 per person

**Menu:**

**Walnut Crusted Chicken** - sautéed breast coated in a walnut crust and topped with a roasted apple demi-glace sauce with wild rice pilaf.

**Beef Stroganoff** - cubed beef in a sour cream mushroom sauce, served over buttered egg noodles.

**Vegetarian -**

Green Salad served with ranch & balsamic

All entrees served with green beans with bacon and onion.

**Dessert:** Cheesecake with raspberry swirl

**If you sign up for this meeting and find that you are unable to attend, please cancel your reservation with Jim Irwin so we do not pay for meals not served. Phone # (928) 684-2041**

***There is a five day advanced cancellation requirement from the Pebble Creek Management, so your cancellation must be received by mid-night, November 7, 2014***

### PebbleCreek Golf Resort

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

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

No. of people in party \_\_\_\_ x \$22.00 per person = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Based on the number of people in your party, please indicate the number and choice of meals you desire:

1. Walnut Crusted Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Beef Stroganoff \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail checks to:

Jim Irwin  
535 Topeka Dr.  
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

**ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 7, 2014**



**PALMBROOK COUNTRY CLUB-ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM**

**Palmbrook Country Club**  
 9350 W. Greenway Rd  
 Sun City, AZ 85351  
 (623) 977-8333

**Time:**

10:30AM - Arrival  
 (Cash Bar)

11:30AM - President's  
 Greeting

12:00PM - Lunch

12:45PM - Christmas  
 Entertainment

# Palmbrook Country Club

**December 9, 2014**

**Christmas Banquet Menu:**

Toss Garden Salad w/ Raspberry Vinaigrette &  
 Ranch Dressings  
 12 oz. Prime Rib w/Horseradish Sauce  
 Garlic Mashed Potatoes w/Brown Gravy  
 Savory Fresh Vegetable Medley  
 Hot Dinner Rolls w/Butter  
 Palmbrook Bread Pudding w/Vanilla Sauce  
 Coffee - Iced Tea - Ice Water

**Directions:** Starting at the West 101 Loop, take W. Grand Ave. (US 60) to North 99th Ave. Go North on N. 99th Ave. to W. Greenway Road then turn right which takes you onto the Palmbrook Country Club grounds.

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## **PALMBROOK COUNTRY CLUB "Registration Form"**

**Dealer Sponsored Event - Liberty Buick**

Yes, we/I plan to attend the Liberty Buick sponsored Christmas Event:

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

**Memo:** Since this is a "dealer sponsored event", guests will be welcome on a "special circumstances bases" only. (Example: GM retiree guests are visiting you from out of town and you would like to bring them to the event) If you would like to bring such a guest, please call Larry Sessoms.

Please email or mail your response to:

Jim Irwin  
 535 Topeka Drive  
 Wickenburg, Arizona 85390  
 knjirwin@earthlink.net

**Your response is requested by December 5, 2014**

## BUS TOUR-ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM



# Special Event Activity

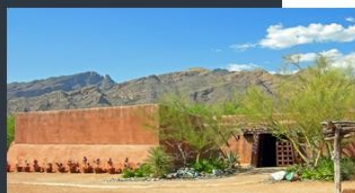
The Club Board invites you and ***your guests*** to join us for an **All Day Bus Tour** featuring stops at the Biosphere2, DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun ending the day with a fantastic dinner at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort:



On Tuesday, February 24, 2015 we will have a luxury coach pick you up at a defined location close to your home and deliver you safely to all destinations. The tour will last 12 hours beginning at approximately 8:00 AM returning around 8:00 PM. These coaches are "full service buses" that have been providing premium transportation throughout the Southwest United States since 1936. The cost of the entire trip will be approximately \$80.00 per person. Final pricing & travel details will be announced in the near future via the Club Newsletters.



**The Biosphere2** is an Earth systems science research facility which has been owned by the University of Arizona since 2011. Located Northeast of Tucson, visitors discover real-time research on the future of our planet as it unfolds in this specially designed mini-world. Time Life Books recently named this as one of the 50 must see "Wonders of the World".



**The DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun** is the artistic manifestation and architectural constructed by Ettore "Ted" DeGrazia (1909 - 1982) who was the son of Italian immigrants who lived in Arizona. It was his life-long appreciation of native cultures in the Sonoran Desert and a passion to create art depicting their lives and lore. The property is a series of buildings scattered throughout a natural desert setting now a museum open to the public.



Finally, we will stop for a social hour and dinner prior to returning to the Phoenix area at the beautiful **Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf Resort**. Located in the serene, colorful high Sonoran Desert terrain in the foothills of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains where magnificent granite cliffs of Pusch Ridge rise directly behind the course providing a breathtaking atmosphere.

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## "SPECIAL EVENT" - REGISTRATION FORM

### Special Event Activity

#### Bus Tour to Biosphere2, DeGrazia Gallery & Hilton Golf Resort

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

No. of People In Party \_\_\_\_\_ X \$80.00 Per Person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **The GM Retirees Club of Arizona** and mail this coupon with your check to:  
**Jim Harshman, 4112 N Goldcliff Circle, Mesa, AZ 85207.**

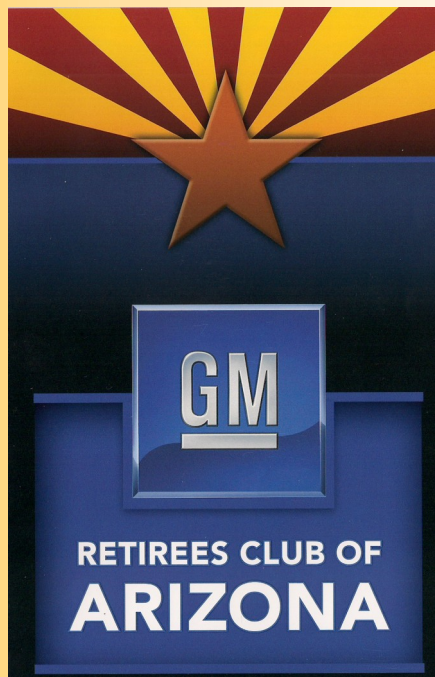
Your early response would be much appreciated, but must be received by **December 1, 2014**. The Club's "Normal Cancellation Policy" will apply if you are not able to attend. More specific trip details will be provided as we get closer to the event date.

**Memo:** No limit on the number of guest you can bring:



[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

**FOR THE LATEST GM NEWS AND INFORMATION**  
**GO TO [WWW.GMRETIREE.COM](http://WWW.GMRETIREE.COM)**