

## THE CLUB REPORTER

DECEMBER 2014



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



Born this month in the City of Bethlehem, Judea some 2000 plus years ago was Jesus of Nazareth who became the most influential man who ever lived. Nearly two thousand years after he was brutally executed by the Roman soldiers, more than 2.2 billion human beings attempt to follow his teachings and believe he is God. That includes 77% of the US population. The teachings of Jesus have shaped the entire world and continues to do so today.

Most Club Members follow the teachings of God and try their best to live according to His teaching. We go to church, support it with our offerings and whenever possible offer our personal services to further God's work. So, when developing this Christmas edition of the newsletter, I attempted to find a member(s) who would offer a glimpse into their personal Christian live(s) that they could share with us this Christmas Season. I have selected to write about John and Pam Roberts. This will be a very special memorial to the life of John who passed away on April 1, 2014 doing something he loved - traveling the seas with his wife Pam. I know you will find their stories very inspiring and a testament to what Christmas is all about.

Sincerely, Jim Harshman, Editor and Club Reporter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dec 9th Palmbrook CC
- Jan 2015 Club Board Elections
- Feb 24th Biosphere2



Important stuff is coming up....First, of course, is for all to get in their reservations for our December 9th Christmas party sponsored by Liberty Buick/GMC at the Palmbrook Country Club. This promises to be a very special event, hosted by (for those who will recall last January's meeting) Sheriff Joe's favorite chick...Autumn Henderson. There will be Buicks and GMCs out front, and inside we'll have a fantastic buffet along with seasonal "spiked" entertainment by the Lilac Crazy Quartet, a quartet which includes our own member, Mary Ellen Stepanich. This group has appeared with the Diamond-backs, on Royal Caribbean ships—all over...and they're great! Be ready for a few surprises, and to participate....read more about the quartet in their Bio immediately following this message.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remember, as a courtesy to the dealer, we need a firm head count—please do get your reservation in if you didn't drop it in Jim Irwin's "bucket" last month. Also, the question always arises with dealer sponsored events...can I bring a friend? Here again, be courteous. The dealer is sponsoring our Club—members and spouses/significant others. If your neighbor is about to buy a Buick or GMC, or you have out of town guests, I'm sure they are welcome—just use good judgment.

Then there is our February 24 bus trip to the Biosphere and more. Here again, we need a firm count with money down in order to commit to the busses. In the event of a subsequent emergency, a refund can be provided for all but the bus expense which will become fixed before year end. As we discussed at our November PebbleCreek meeting, your Board's goal with this first of its kind for us trip is to exceed your expectations. That is the challenge we are taking on!

Finally, as the calendar year end approaches, our by-laws provide for the nomination and election of officers. A nominating committee, made up of currently active past presidents of your Club and chaired by Ken Wechselberger, has started their work. If asked, I hope you will agree to step in and help us. Importantly, however, I encourage all to consider serving with our Board as a Member At Large—this allows participation and an overview of what goes on, without the commitment of becoming an officer. We want and need "new blood" with new ideas. Please consider this opportunity, and contact Ken or another of the nominating committee if interested.

Just a friendly reminder, 2015 Annual Club Calendar Year Dues can be included in your December meeting registration acknowledgement envelope and sent to Jim Irwin or dropped in the "collection box" at the Palmbrook C. C. check in table. The Board has voted to keep the dues for 2015 at \$30.00. Club dues are due by January 1, 2015.

Faye and I hope to see all at Palmbrook—thanks again to Liberty Buick/GMC.

My very best to all in this start to our Holiday Season/Larry Sessoms

## DEATH NOTICE



**Arlene A. Weglarz**, born May 12 1929, died July 24, 2014. She is survived by her husband of 61 years and long time Club member, Joseph; daughter, Deborah Young; son, Joseph III; granddaughters, Jessie and Beka Young; great-grandsons, Justin and Jordan. A Funeral Mass was held on September 20th at St. Elizabeth Seton, Sun city, AZ. Contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

**FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2014-2015****Tuesday, December 9:**

Meeting will be sponsored by Liberty Buick/GMC (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:**

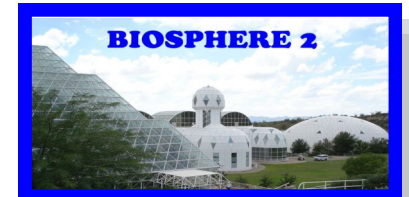
Meeting will be at Arrowhead Cadillac with lunch sponsored by the dealer (Mike Scarfia, Sales Manager; Rick Meewes, General Manager). A GM executive speaker has been requested.

**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:**

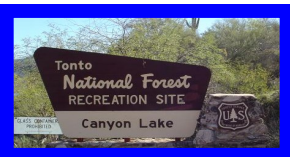
This will be a "special event" and will feature a Bus Trip to the Biosphere2, DeGrazia Gallery In The Sun and dinner at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort. All members that register will receive a special instructions letter giving complete details on the event before the end of the year. Reservation Acknowledgment Forms will also be made available at the sign-in table on December 9th which will be the absolute drop dead date for sign-ups. *Tour is 80% mobility challenged friendly.*

**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 NOVEMBER 2014



**Susan Moss \$50.00**



**Clarice Medina \$35.00**



**Barbara Zielinski \$25.00**

## PALMBROOK ENTERTAINMENT - LILAC CRAZY QUARTET BIO



(L to R) Baritone: Connie Sherman Base: Claudia Plotnick Lead: Mary Ellen Stepanich New Tenor: Adelina Zotolla (picture not shown here)

"Barbershop Comedy" at its best! What makes Lilac Crazy any different from all the other entertainment in the Phoenix Valley? Well, there just isn't anything like them in the Valley - or probably anywhere else across the nation for that matter. That's because they are not a soloist, pianist, a combo band or a jazz band. In fact, they use no instruments at all, only their voices. They cleverly combine beautiful four-part harmony with bizarre comedy. Their repertoire includes doo-wops, lovely ballads, up-tunes from the 30's, 40's & 50's, funny songs and parodies, songs from musicals, holiday songs, patriotic songs...you name it.

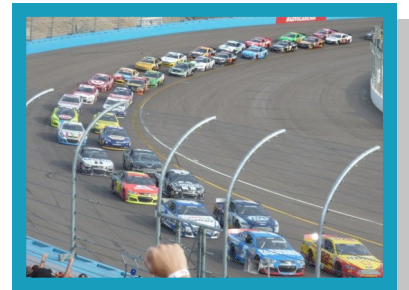
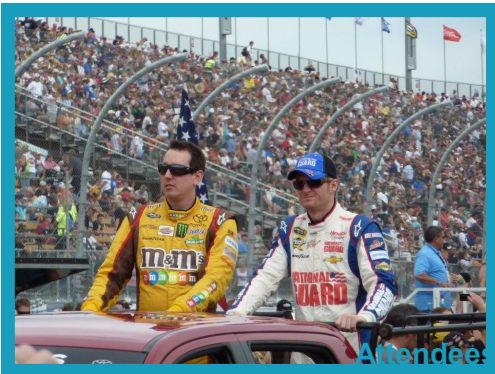
And, did I mention that there are actually five in the Lilac Crazy quartet? You ask, "Aren't there only four in a quartet?" Well, most times, yes! But as is usual fare for Lilac Crazy, there are five in this quartet. Yes, the fifth member is "Kitten Kaboodle", a renowned Advice to the Lovelorn Columnist, a political know-it-all...and...dare we say it?...a puppet! But, hey, you'll just have to see them at our December 9th meeting to believe it - because after all, the "lie Like (Lilac) Crazy! Oh, and they are for hire if you have a special event. Have voices...will travel!



## NOVEMBER 9, 2014 NASCAR EVENT



If you're talking to a Club Member and they keep on saying "what...speak louder", you know that they were one of the 21 members and guests who ventured out to Phoenix International Raceway for the running of the Sprint Cup Series "Quicken Loan 500" Race in Avondale on November 9th. No fights, but plenty of great racing action which saw the eventual 2014 Sprint Cup Champion Kevin Harvick win the race. Here are a few pictures to wet your appetite for next year.



Attendees : Kathleen Umlanf, Alan & Roxanne Steffe, Beverley Louton and guest, Jorge & Clarice Median, Donnie & Ilma Duncan, 6 members of the Mike Schumal Family and Jim Harshman and guests)

## NOVEMBER 12, 2014 PEBBLECREEK EVENT



Our November PebbleCreek C. C. meeting was "Club history in the making". First, our special GM guest speaker was Anita Burke, Vehicle Chief Engineer - Mid Size Trucks who spoke about the new Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon trucks over new satellite technology from Detroit. This is a first for the Club and in the future will expand our guest speaker possibilities. A big "thank you" to Marsha

Hall Jenkins in the GM Retiree department in Detroit for all your hard working in helping us make this meeting the success that it turned out to be..

Second, was a surprise visit from CARNAC THE MAGNIFICENT giving us his words of wisdom through divine answers to questions sealed in envelopes. Remembering those words..."I have in my hand an envelope, a child of four can plainly see these envelopes are hermetically sealed". Then, ending his "spiel" by saying..."May your Perrier water be secretly bottled in Tijuana". Great fun and excellent presentation by Anita.



**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—PAM & JOHN ROBERTS**

This picture was taken on March 21, 2014 just 10 days before John died of a heart attack on April 1st while on a cruise to the Panama Canal with his wife Pam. They had been praying that their time to leave this earth would come in God's timing and that they would be doing something they both loved to do. God answered their prayers. The photo depicts just how close they were and the love they shared for each other. They were true "partners" in everything they did in their lives. For this reason, we dedicate this article in John's memory.

Pam Roberts was born in Norwich, Norfolk, England. Her father died in WWII in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in Thailand when she was just 18 months old. Her mother married an American Army soldier when Pam was 6 years old. Her stepfather moved the family to Tennessee where they lived in a house without plumbing or electricity for some time. They were very poor and moved from house to house until Pam was 10 years old. They moved to Detroit, Michigan where she was raised. When she was 11 years old, she remembers riding her bike around the very large block of buildings that were occupied by Cadillac on Clark Street in Detroit, never thinking that one day she would work there, and they would pay for her college education and make possible the wonderful life she has today.



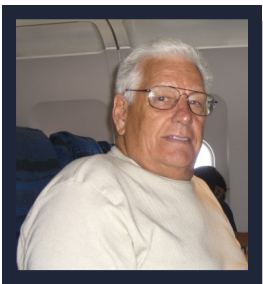
General Motors has been a huge part of her life. Pam was always considered to be a "brain" with "nerd potential" when growing up. She even appeared on the TV show "Wiz Kids" and excelled in answering questions. So, when she graduated from Detroit's Western High, it is no wonder that she was granted a four year college GM Scholarship for academic achievement. However, she only used one year due to the fact that she left college to get married. GM still paid her way through college using the GM Tuition Refund Program and as a result she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology at the University of Detroit.

Pam first started at GM with Cadillac Motor Car Division as a clerk in 1962. That was one of the only positions a woman could hold in those days until the equal employment opportunity push took hold at which time she began to move forward with her career. She held many positions when starting out most of which were eventually replaced by computers. This helped focus her career in the direction computers were taking the company to run and streamline the business. Very early in the new wave of computerization, Pam was editing key punch cards for new car builds for that day to make sure they were compatible. Later, her job was to type the vehicle specifications directly to the production line. Only once could she remember making a wrong key punch stroke which resulted in having a black car built with white fenders. Obviously, she got a lot of ribbing for that error from fellow workers.

**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—PAM & JOHN ROBERTS**

Most of Pam's supervisory and managerial career evolved around dealer computer systems...Model & Option Forecasting, Sales Reporting & Forecasting, Dealer Communications (DCS), so much so that she moved to EDS as a Staff Assistant for the Vehicle Ordering Management System (VOMS) development, initialization and implementation. She returned to Cadillac after 3 years to become the VOMS Manager and retired in 1995 at the age of 53.

As mentioned above, Pam married early in her business career and was married to her first husband for 22 years before he succumbed to Melanoma. She and her husband, Norbert Bartos, the Assistant Director of Public Relations for Cadillac, enjoyed teaching Sunday School and mentoring children in a single parent home. Pam enjoyed reading, traveling, volunteering and grandchildren. So, it was no wonder that after she was widowed God brought her a man who loved the same things...times two. John Roberts and Pam were married on September 11, 1992. Mutual friends introduced them the day after Pam had prayed for a new husband. She had prayed for a Christian man who was a widow, had children and knew how to cook! John, who was widowed twice before meeting Pam, fit this request exactly and had many more wonderful surprises. They began their lives together serving the Lord and performing missionary work around the world.



John Emlen Roberts was born in Acosta, Pennsylvania and early in his life his parents relocated to Canton, Ohio where he lived until he enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 18. John was a Korean War veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart. After returning from the war, John settled in Detroit, Michigan for the next 40 years. John had 4 children (two boys and two girls) and 8 grandchildren. John's life was filled with love of his family, success of his electrical contracting business, and what would be the first of his missionary work with the Detroit First Church of the Nazarene. And, like Pam, he loved to travel, reading and to perform volunteer work.

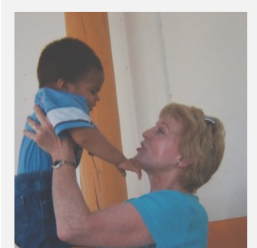
John's first missionary calling was to build a parsonage in Swaziland. This opened his heart to God's purpose for him for the next 30 years. He came to know Jesus as his Savior on his second Work and Witness Trip in Peru, where he was baptized in a river. In all, John led over 60 mission trips to 16 countries. Pam partnered with him on over 20 of these trips from 1992 - 2013. In one 11 year period alone, they were involved in building 50 small churches. In addition, countless lives have been touched in a positive way. On some occasions, the team included doctors and dentists that administered to the poor and needy at no charge.

Listed below are three or four examples of how their ministry has enriched the lives of John and Pam:

**TAPACHULA, MEXICO:** Eleven years ago, John and Pam were called to lead a Work and Witness team to Tapachula, Mexico, where they continued through 2013. Their mission was to build a parsonage for the pastor as well as minister and witness to the locals. What an experience.



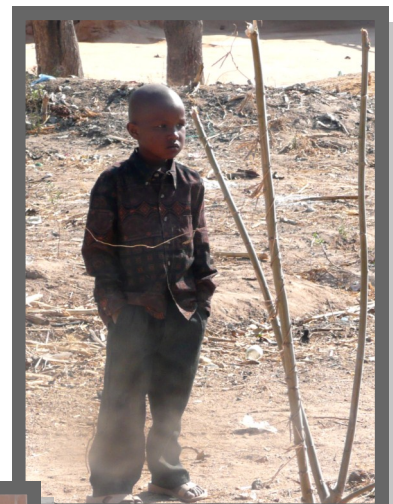
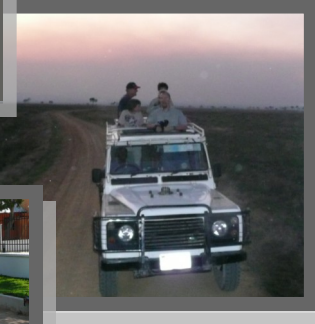
## CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—PAM & JOHN ROBERTS



The children were wonderful. They were very receptive to the Bible School and shared many hugs as well as receiving the gospel. The people of the church were warm and appreciative. Pam remembers once when 3 ladies in their 80's came to pray for her and other workers painting a wall. These ladies knelt on the cement with their bare knees to pray for the workers and bless them. All were in tears at the end of that heartfelt prayer.



The team witnessed jungle people coming for miles on foot or bikes to greet them, and children with no clothes outside of tiny thatched roof shacks playing in the dry dirt. A little boy offered her a stone which is all he had to give as a gesture of how excited he was to see her.





**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—PAM & JOHN ROBERTS**

MANY OTHER POOR CITIES AROUND THE WORLD: Teams would go and witness door to door in the poorest of neighborhoods while on their off hours from working on the building. Pam remembers one typical house she visited in Tapachula, Mexico. It was just one room, a box with 2 beds, a table and 2 chairs, nothing else. There were no doors or window glass. There were just curtains in the doorway and the one window. The team told them how much God loved them, told them about Jesus and gave them small gifts including a "salvation bracelet". The team prayed with them and asked them to come to church. These people, who had nothing, were more gracious than many Americans in the same circumstances. They insisted that the team use the two chairs and they stood. They were hungry to hear God's story. In every city visited, over time, a positive transformation in that city took place. People were given new hope.

More recently, John and Pam have volunteered their time reading to 3rd grade children, and serving the Indian Reservation community in areas of need. Spreading the word of God through compassionate ministries, building churches, parsonages and schools became their passion. Many times they supported these projects with their own money, but their greatest rewards came from actually participating. Being on the ground working, witnessing to others, administering to the sick and aiding the poor. For Pam and John, it was a blessing, not a sacrifice, to share physical and spiritual resources God has given them. They really believed they were more blessed than the receivers of their works. The two guiding verses from the Bible that directed them to minister are: Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Now you might think that due to losing her partner and all the grieving that she is experiencing would slow her down. Not so! In 2015, Pam already has two trips planned. First to Kenya to assist with combating gender/work place violence. The goal is to build a "safe house" for abused women and teach the men how God wants them to treat the women. In addition, they will implement a new fresh water purification system as well as teach locals about God. Then, it is down to Rocky Point, Mexico to build churches and witness about God in order to create change. Pam also belongs to a woman's prayer group and a mixed prayer group. These groups are committed to praying for the needs of each other and those in need.



Locally, Pam belongs to the CrossRoads Nazarene Church in Chandler where she attends Sunday school classes on "Practical Christianity", helps minister at local reservation churches and, as usual, around Christmas helps her class take them lots of needed gifts. Pam helps feed the homeless in Tempe Park once a month and as-

sists other church members when the church opens its doors to the homeless once a month for a week of shelter, food and clothing.

**CLUB MEMBER FEATURE—PAM & JOHN ROBERTS**

In closing, we all can take away from this Christmas article the importance of helping others in need. No matter what faith you belong to, giving of yourself and working to help others is in many ways more important than giving just your money. People will see that you really care about them and love them and want to bless them. Pam intends to continue her walk with Jesus and trusts Him to lead her in serving Him for the rest of her life. John and Pam are living testimonies of loving the Lord with all your heart. Their Christmas story is living proof that the teachings of Jesus have shaped the entire world and continues to do so today.



*In*  
*Loving*  
**John Emlem Roberts**  
*Memory*

*John has been a rock of strength, love and comfort for his wife, children, grandchildren and friends.*

## PALMBROOK COUNTRY CLUB



**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/GMC

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**



## ALL DAY BUS TOUR



# Special Event Activity

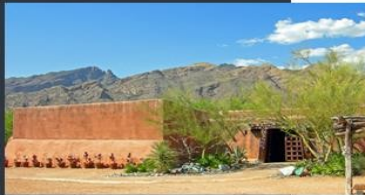
The Club Board invites you and **your guests** to join us for an **All Day Bus Tour** featuring stops at the Biosphere2, DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun ending the day with a fantastic dinner at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort:



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 \$85.00 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 \$85.00 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

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