

## THE CLUB REPORTER

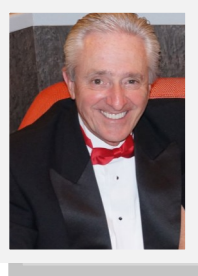
DECEMBER 2015



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



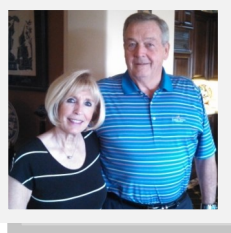
Happy Holiday's everyone! I sincerely hope you are all enjoying this very special time of the year and looking forward to a great New Year.

At the end of this month, we will have published three (3) years worth of The Club Reporter - 22 Volumes. If you remember, the purpose of the Club's "Enhanced eNewsletter Format" was to write about Member's lives, so that everyone would get to know each other better. In 21 of the Volumes thus far, there have been stories about our Veteran heroes and how they distinguished themselves while serving in the armed forces, individual Members with special hobbies like exploring their family trees, diorama miniaturist, clay modeling, performance and antique car collections, Goodyear blimp gondola design, miniature train collections, Dancin Grannies, quilting, and swimming from Alcatraz to San Francisco. We even have a "stuntman", "professional vocalist" and book publisher among us. Then, there were the many stories of Members who give unselfishly of themselves for others; mission work in foreign countries, local church activities and the A World In Motion (AWIM) volunteers who support child development in the fields of math and science in local Phoenix schools. Five (5) of the 21 eNewsletter Member Features have been published by General Motors on the national GM Retirees website - [www.gmretiree.com](http://www.gmretiree.com)

Club Website: [www.gmretireeaz.com](http://www.gmretireeaz.com)

In this edition of The Club Reporter, I am happy to write to you about the life of long time Club Member **Timothy (Tim) Schlax**, his wife Karen and their family. Truly, this will be the *most inspiring article ever written* in The Club Reporter. I know you will enjoy it.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Jan. 12 "Day In Wick-enburg"
- Feb. 9 "Sun Lakes by Coulter" Oakwood CC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

God. That includes 77% of the US population. The teachings of Jesus have shaped the entire world and continue to do so today. So, as we head into the Christmas Season, let us give thanks for all God has given us. For those of you who are travelling this Holiday Season, we pray that God will provide you a safe journey and a return to the Phoenix area ready to begin another year.

**Election of Club Officers:** As the calendar year end approaches, our by-laws provide for the Membership nomination and election of Club Officers (President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer). A nominating committee, made up of currently active past presidents serving on the Board and chaired by Ken Wechselberger, have finished their work and have sent all Members the Board's nominations. 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 if interested. So, if you would like to volunteer your name as a candidate for any of the officer's positions or would like to nominate someone else, please call Ken at **(623) 251-3684** by January 2, 2016. All nominations for Club officers will be presented to the Membership for final vote in our January 12, 2016 meeting in Wickenburg, AZ.

**Associate Member Proposal:** In addition to voting on the above Club Officer nominations, Club Members attending the January 12, 2016 meeting in Wickenburg will be asked to vote for/against a Board proposal for a change to the Club Bi-Laws which would allow for a new category of Club Member. Both the Club Officer nominations and the Member Sponsored - Associate Member Proposal will be forwarded in advance to all Members no later than the first week of January so maximum time is allowed for Member input prior to the January 12th vote. So, if you know you will not be attending the January meeting, please be looking for the January eNewsletter and call Ken Wechselberger with any input you may have so your issue can be discussed at the meeting.

**Important Forms:** It is important to note that we are providing you with the following forms for your convenience. The forms that I have attached to this newsletter are:

1. January 12, 2016 - "Day In Wickenburg Meeting Acknowledgement Form". Due January 6, 2016
2. April 6, 2016 - "Verde Canyon Railroad " - Advanced Registration Form. Due January 1, 2016
3. NEW 2016 Membership Application/Renewal Form. Due January 1, 2016

Barbara and I hope to see all of you in Wickenburg in January. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and our very best to all in the New Year.

Best regards,

Bob and Barbara Goebel

## OBITUARY FOR RICHARD J. (DICK) TICE



**SUN CITY WEST - Tice, Richard J. (Dick)**, age 80 passed away on September 14, 2015. Survived by Nancy, his loving wife of 55 years; sons, Bradley (Kristi), Bryan (Marylynne) and Douglas (Patricia Laber); grandchildren, Caitlin, Ashley and Brett; brothers, Judson (June) and Thomas. He was predeceased by parents, Judson and Hazel; and a sister, Shirley. Dick was born in Buffalo, NY; served in the US Marine Corp and upon graduation from Bowling Green State University, married Nancy (Lemasters) and relocated to the Detroit area. He retired from General Motors after a 33 year career in human resources and labor relations. He retired to Sun City West in 1993 and enjoyed family, friends and endless rounds of golf.

A Memorial Service was held at Shepherd of the Hills UMC, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd. Sun City West, AZ on October 12, 2015. Any donations you may want to make in his name should be made to a charity of your choice.

## NOVEMBER PEBBLE CREEK 50/50 WINNERS



**Jim Irwin \$65**



**Mary Genslak \$42**



**Jim Smeets \$25**



**Jim Shepherd wins Printer**  
*Donated by Jorge & Clarice Medina*

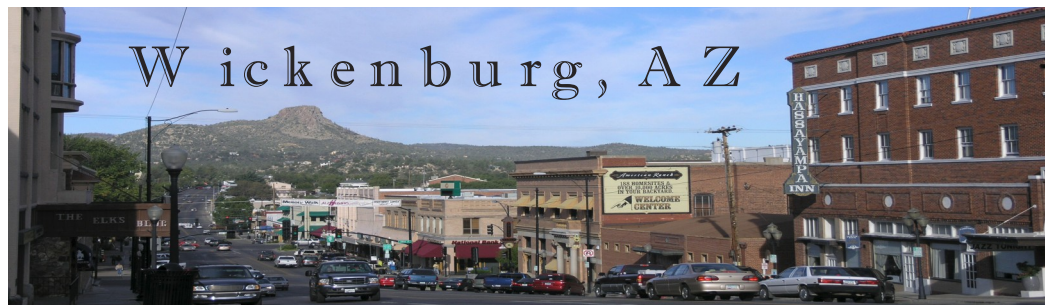
## FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2015/2016

**Tuesday**

**January 12, 2016**

**"A Day in**

**Wickenburg, AZ"**



The rich mining town of Wickenburg, AZ is a testament to the hardy resolve of the gold rush dreamers who flocked to the area in the 1800's. Our day will be packed with things to do. Final agenda

**FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE 2015-2016****Tuesday****February 9, 2016****"Sun Lakes by Coulter"  
Oakwood Country Club**

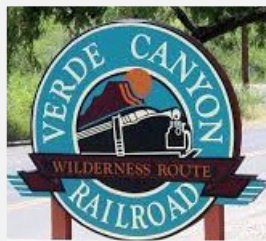
This is a Coulter Cadillac, Buick/GMC - Tempe "dealer sponsored event" which will feature Greg DePaola's famous luncheon with a beef carving station and buffet. The meeting will have a

**Tuesday****March 8, 2016****Phoenix Stadium**

We are currently in talks with the management of the Phoenix Stadium for a tour with lunch or dinner at a nearby restaurant. If you remember, the unique thing about this stadium is the grass floor which is rolled into the stadium on game day. Plus, it is the home field for the Phoenix Cardinal football team. Finalized information will be provided in the Club's January Newsletter.

**MEMO****March 2016**

***The 2016 March Golf Outing*** will be held in Scottsdale this year. Details have not been finalized as of this date, but will be provided to you as soon as they are available.

**Wednesday****April 6, 2016****SPECIAL EVENT**

A One Day Club "Special Event" which begins and ends with a bus trip beginning at a stop in Sun Lakes, a stop in Sun City West and proceeding to the rail depot for lunch. Features a "Round Trip Train Ride" through the Verde Canyon from Clarksdale to Perkinville (46 miles) At 5PM the train returns to Clarkdale and the group will travel five miles to the Blazin' M Ranch for a Chuck Wagon Dinner and a Western Stage Show (Rated 5 star). The bus will arrive back into the Phoenix area around 9:30PM.

Check out [www.verdecanyonrr.com](http://www.verdecanyonrr.com) and [www.blazinm.com](http://www.blazinm.com)

**PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**TIM AND KAREN SCHLAX**

Tim was born on March 19, 1938 in Salem, Wisconsin and lived in this small farming community until after graduating from high school in 1956. He was the elder son of a family of 3 children; 1 sister and 1 brother. His father worked 16 years for the Nash Corporation and eventually owned his own business as a modern day blacksmith/repairman. He could fix anything, but repairing lawn mowers and welding farm equipment were his specialty. As a teenager, Tim would sit for hours reading library electronics books, memorizing everything he could. In addition, while growing up in school, Tim was often in the same classroom with higher grade level students which greatly fostered his ability to learn at an advanced pace younger in life.

Tim did not have a typical childhood. He was diagnosed at birth with Cerebral Palsy which is an incurable neurological condition that causes mild to severe impairment in movement, thought, speech and/or coordination. Quite frankly, he was not supposed to live. However, Mom was a homemaker and worked as a surgical nurse in a local hospital. Tim credits his Mom as being strong willed and for having a huge impact on his life by encouraging him to do whatever it takes to succeed in life...there would be no excuses.

Tim had no problem with pulling grades in school. In fact, he excelled and received awards at science fairs while progressing through high school. Electronics became his passion. His notable academic achievements from 1956 - 1961 included a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from Marquette University before he was hired by AC Electronic in June of 1961 (later became Delco Electronics). In 1963, General Motors, through the mentorship of Fred Best, awarded Tim a GM Fellowship to MIT (Cambridge, MA) where he earned his PhD EE in September of 1967, majoring in semi-conductors. Now, let's take a look at what Tim's been able to achieve through his professional work career.

**WORK HISTORY**

Transferred from AC Electronics to the GM Engineering Staff in February 1972

Promoted to Staff Engineer in September 1977

Project Manager of various microcomputer/electronic activities from 1972-87

Manager of Advanced Product Engineering (APE) computer facilities interfacing with EDS 1988-92

Project Manager of automotive safety activities including forward looking radar and NITSA sponsored projects

Retired in November 1997 as GM Staff Engineer working on advanced safety projects

## TIM AND KAREN SCHLAX

## MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS &amp; LEGACY AT GENERAL MOTORS

**1973-74.** Project Leader and computer hardware & software architect of the first 2 microprocessor controlled vehicles; published a paper at the 2nd Convergence '76 Conference on this project; received the "Best Paper Award" at the Convergence '78 Conference.

**1977-79.** Technical Assistant to Delco Electronics in selecting the 1st microprocessor supplier.

**1975-82.** GM Explorer Scout Leader of a microcomputer project (model railroad & piano controllers); Staff Explorer Scout Co-coordinator.

**1974-84.** GMI thesis sponsor for many GMI students on various electronic projects; co-authored paper on a vehicle dot matrix display approach at a Display Conference in California.

So, what's Tim doing these days to keep busy? Tim continues to work on correcting the way he signs his name...writes upside down and left handed...not going to happen, but don't bet on it! He works out an hour a day on a doctor prescribed regiment to keep flexible in order to prevent being confined to a wheelchair. His hobbies include computer related projects, camera technology selection and computer photo expertise. Tim basically is Karen's technology assistant supporting her photography activities. At the end of this article you will find a selection of Karen's photographs that Tim and Karen have produced from their travels around the world.



From Left to Right daughter Christine, Tim, Karen, Dog Buddy and Grandson Jordan.

Behind every successful man there is always a supportive wife. **Karen** was born in Chicago then lived in Des Plaines, IL through her junior year in high school. Her family then moved to Chattanooga, TN where she graduated from high school. Karen began her undergraduate degree at Marquette University in 1960 and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Physical Therapy in 1965. It was at Marquette that Karen met Tim at a party and five years later they were married and started a family. After moving to Michigan, she attended Oakland University and earned her Masters of Science Degree in Counseling.

## WORK HISTORY

Physical Therapist in Cambridge, MA, Milwaukee, WI and Rochester/Pontiac, Michigan in homecare, hospitals and schools

In Michigan, she worked in schools with early intervention to post high school programs

Retired in May 1997 as a Registered Physical Therapist in the Rochester Community School System.

2002 - Present. Works as an Arizona Realtor with her daughter Christine

**TIM AND KAREN SCHLAX****MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS & LEGACY WORKING OR FAMILY LIFE**

Her working years as a Physical Therapist and seeing the impact on parents' and children's lives from birth to post high school

Raising 4 children to be great adults while working and managing the home

Being a grandmother to 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren

Loves attending grandson's baseball games (HS & Club teams)



It goes without saying that the most important thing in Tim & Karen's life, beside each other, is family.

Greg is an Attorney living in Jacksonville Beach, FL married with 2 sons.

Adopted son David is a delivery truck driver, lives in Elgin, IL with partner, acting father for 2 autistic teens.

Christine is an Arizona Realtor, married with 2 sons.

Adopted daughter Laura works for a GM supplier, lives in Liberty, MO, widow with 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

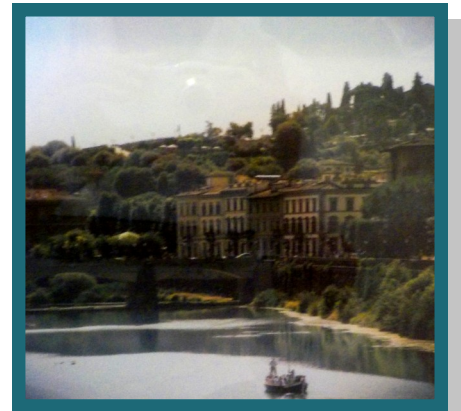
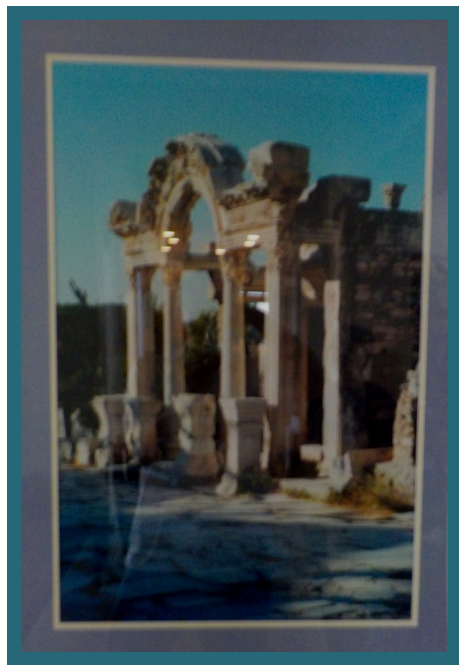
Greg, David, Christine and Laura

**THE SCHLAX EXTENDED FAMILY**

50th Wedding Anniversary celebrated at a local restaurant on June 13, 2015. Includes the whole CREW.

**TIM AND KAREN SCHLAX**

Karen's hobby is Photography. All of the wall pictures shown below were taken by Karen during their many travels overseas. Pictures from Ephesus, Turkey, Florence, Rome and Hawaii. Of course, Tim helped get them in their final format, but the real artist was Karen. Knowing what and how to shoot a picture is the key to successful photography. Karen has no formal training, she just likes to take pictures. The only thing she regrets is not taking enough pictures of themselves.

*Samples of Karen's Photography*

In closing, I would like to thank Tim and Karen for allowing me into their home and sharing with me a lifetime of memories and successes. Your energy and love for each other radiates from your personalities and I consider it an honor to have been given the opportunity to write your story.

Thank You.

**CLUB MEMBERS AND THEIR PET'S COMPETITION**

Next month, get ready! We will be bringing out the Best in Class, Most Unique, Most Lovable and Most Awkward Position our pets are put in.

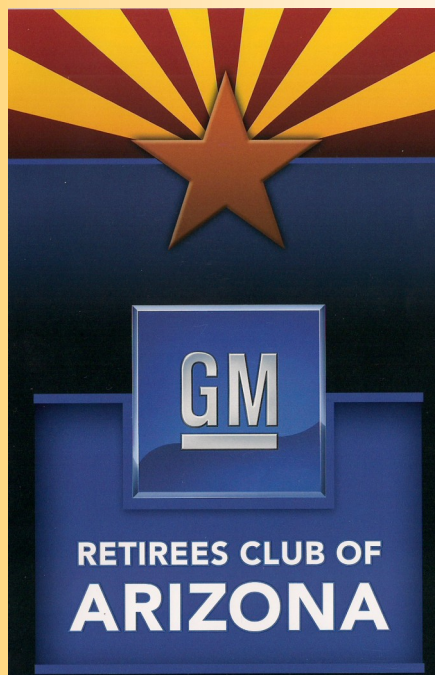


**Wishing You A Very Happy & Healthy New Year**



[www.GMRetireeAZ.com](http://www.GMRetireeAZ.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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