

THE CLUB REPORTER



APRIL 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITOR'S	
WELCOME	

AZ

0

CLUB

N O I

۷ Σ

PRESIDENT'S 1-2 MESSAGE

THANK YOU TO

MARCH MEETING AT 3 SANDS CHEVROLET

GM PUBLIC POLICY 4 MEETING

APRIL PICNIC-IN- 5 THE-PARK

APRIL	GOLF	6
OUTI	N G	

2	017-	2018	7-8
PRO	GRA	M YEAR	

W	ΕL	C	0	M	E	NEW	9 –
	М	E	М	В	Ē	RS	11

DOOR PRIZE & 12 50/50 WINNERS

AWIM HONOREES 13

SPECIAL POINTS <u>of i</u>nterest:

- 2016-2017 Program
 Year End
- 2017-2018 Program Year Schedule
- New Members

EDITOR'S WELCOME



In our March Meeting at Sands Chevrolet, we acknowledged that Jim & Diane Harshman are moving to Florida to be closer to family, and thanked them for their years as editor and publisher of The Club Reporter. It is now time for your new editor and publisher to try his hand at continuing the exceptional work they have started.

I look forward to taking the reins and will be calling on several new "reporters" to assist in bringing you the lat-

est Club items of interest. If you have suggested news items that would be of interest to the entire group, please let me know.

In this edition, we will try to wrap up the very successful 2016-2017 Program Year and present our activities and events for the 2017-2018 Program Year that you will want to put on your calendar now. We will also provide some insight into some of our new members.

I want to wish everyone a very good summer, whether staying in AZ, returning to another residence, or doing some traveling. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall. In the meantime, watch your email for a summer edition of The Club Reporter and check the website for additional updates.

Enjoy!

Alan Steffe

Editor & Publisher, The Club Reporter alansteffe@yahoo.com

Club Website: www.azgmalumni.com
GM Corporate Website: www.GMRetiree.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Have you looked at our website www.azgmalumni.com lately? The information mirrors who we are, a club rich in relationships related to the remarkable legacy of General Motors. Why remarkable? Because we gained skills and experience far beyond the average citizen of this fine nation through the challenges and opportunities presented

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

by General Motors. Our loved ones were beneficiaries, and today we're enjoying a more comfortable life as a benefit.

We're now including photos collected during our social gatherings on our website. There are three people who've made this possible: Jon Moss for sharing his awesome collection of Club photos, Tom Piatak for stepping up to help us with photography, and Al Steffe for putting them on the website. Going forward, we'll continue to add photos of good times shared during our events. It may not be possible for you to attend every Club event, but photos are now available to see what you missed, while showcasing our Club to other GM Alumni who are considering membership. I hope you'll suggest to non-members that they check out our website. To see fun times from the 2016-2017 (October – April) Program Year, see the "Previous Events & Photos" tab in the "Calendar" Section.

We have a phenomenal line up of Club events for the coming season. So, before you begin your summer break, check out the complete listing for our 2017-2018 Program Year, provided in this edition, or on our website, www.azgmalumni.com, and mark your calendar with each event. Time flies quickly, and you won't want to miss the pleasure of being with our corporate kindred. The humor is understood, the breadth of friendship is a gift, and the enjoyment is like no other social group!

Input from member surveys gathered earlier this year, conveyed what you enjoy most. In fact, you provided so much good input, that balancing the calendar to schedule events around the entire Valley drove the 2017-2018 calendar. We also learned that most members are available to attend events in early November rather than mid-October. Our loyal dealers are always generous hosts, and we've planned a dealer-sponsored luncheon on November 7th hosted by long-time loyal dealer, Liberty Buick, to kick-off our program year. As always, guests are welcome and it's going to be another fabulous year! We look forward to a great turnout to start the new year!

GM ALUMNI CLUB OF ARIZONA

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

AMES H. HARSHMAN

contain

Roxanne Steffe 810-280-1399

THANK YOU TO JIM & DIANE HARSHMAN



To recognize their tireless contributions, the Club presented Jim with a plaque of appreciation, recognizing him "as a lifelong mem-

ber of the highest distinction," while Diane was presented a clock recogniz-

ing her contributions through the Club Reporter. We wish them well in their new environment for years to many come! They will always be welcome when in the area.



Thank You Both for all you have done for the Club!

Page 3

MARCH 14 MEETING - SPONSORED BY SANDS CHEVROLET

We are especially grateful to Sands Chevrolet for opening their Surprise dealership in March and providing an exceptional venue and lunch for all in attendance. The featured speaker from the Corporation was Sandor Piszar, Director of Chevrolet Truck Marketing. He provided insights on the exciting new products Chevrolet has coming through the pipeline, and the advertising approach Chevrolet is using to successfully compete in today's marketplace.

On behalf of GM, Sandor acknowledged the recipients of 10-year service awards to the SAE's AWIM program. The local program is recognized as a leader in the US, with Derek Logan as the current Section Chair for SAE Arizona. Those individuals recognized included: William Klein, Robert Kohler, Derek Logan, James Maxwell, Thomas Piatak, Donald Robins, James Smeets, Thomas Terry, and Vincent Walker. Their picture appears on page 13 of this Newsletter.



MARCH 29 - GM PUBLIC POLICY COMES TO PHOENIX

The GM Public Policy group traveled to Phoenix from Washington, DC to conduct an informational meeting related to autonomous vehicles for all GM retirees in the area. This is a topic getting increasing attention, with many

different companies competing to be the leader in this technology.

Bryan Roosa, Executive Director - North American Government Relations, shared information on the status of the technology, where it is rapidly moving,

and the legislative opportunities presenting themselves before the technology becomes fully commercialized. Numerous relevant and thought provoking questions were taken and answered from the large audience in attendance.

In addition to the Public Policy group, members of the GM Retiree Communications Staff assisted in this event. This technology will be a game-changer for the automotive industry in total, and we had the opportunity to have our loyal dealers participate. They provided several new vehicles for all to check out prior to the luncheon.



Marsha Hall Jenkins and Amy Witt from the GM Retiree Communications Staff are checking out the Buick Cascada provided by Liberty Buick. Thanks to Sands Chevrolet, Courtesy Chevrolet, and Liberty GMC for also providing vehicles for viewing.



APRIL 7 - PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK

The Club closed out the 2016-2017 Program Year with a bang! Mother Nature cooperated with beautiful weather for the year-end picnic at PebbleCreek's Sunrise Park. Everyone enjoyed a fun-filled day with team games, songs, and cheering. There was strong competition

DILIONS .

between the four teams — Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac, and GMC — as their captains led them through several organized games. Winners were hard to measure as

the competition was intense and some trash talking even entered the games. The bottom line... everyone participated and had a great time.

The great barbeque provided by Dillon's Ca-

tering and refreshing drinks topped off with ice cream treats from Mr. Softee completed a very successful day.





APRIL 19 - GOLF OUTING

The annual Golf Outing greeted 27 golfers on Wednesday, April 19th, at the Starfire Golf Club in Scottsdale with outstanding weather as we have all come to expect in Arizona. Seven teams attacked the course in a scramble format with very stiff competition as can be seen from the final scores all being below par. Even though there was a competitive spirit, the best part of the day was the camaraderie and social interaction of all involved. Add to that favors and prizes for all participants and an excellent meal following the round, and all participants

went home smiling and happy after a "wonderful day on the course" (even though some people may have left a few golf balls behind, hiding or bathing on various parts of the course).

We were happy to have three representatives from two of our Loyal Dealers participate with us in the outing providing an opportunity to strengthen our relationships with them. We are always looking for more members to come and join the fun in next year's annual outing.



Bob & Barbara Goebel welcomed all participants with a gift bag and a smile to a wonderful day on the course.

"And the final numbers are in..."





1st Place Team — Ken Wechselberger, Frank Mehnert, & John Kobierowski

Congratulations to the On-Course Contest Winners...

Longest Dríve...

Ladies - Ann Marie Leonard Men - Jon Moss

Closest to the Pin...

Ladies - Mary Dumont Men - Alan Steffe

2017-2018 PROGRAM YEAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Save these dates for another fun-filled year of Club events beginning again in November! Note the March update!



2017—2018 PROGRAM YEAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS—CONTINUED

KARTCHNER CAVERNS - MARCH 14, 2018 DAY TRIP



As noted on the previous page, the March Day Trip via motor coach to **Kartchner Caverns** has now been finalized resulting in some changes from the original commu-

nication. The day trip will now occur on **Wednesday**, **March 14**, **2018** and include a choice of one of two different cavern tours at Kartchner Caverns — the **Rotunda/Throne Tour** or

the **Rotunda/Throne Tour** or the **Big Room Tour**. Each tour is ½ mile long. Each Rotunda/Throne Tour is limited to 20 people taking 90 minutes to complete with 50 minutes underground. Each Big Room Tour is limited to 15 people taking 1¾ hours to complete with 1 hour underground.





Following the Kartchner Caverns tour, we will travel to Trail Dust

Town, where guests can relax and enjoy a trip back in time. The stop includes the entry fee to the *Museum of the Horse Soldier*, taking approximately 1 hour to tour, and a dinner of chicken & ribs with all the fixin's at the *Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse*.



This day trip costs \$110 per person and is limited to the first **48 people** to register. A \$50 per person minimum deposit is required by September 1, 2017 to hold your place on the bus. Final payment



is due by January 31, 2018. So if you want to reserve your seat on the bus, remember to **register by September 1**, **2017**. If seats remain at that time, they will be made available to guests at a cost of \$115 per person. All reservations must be made by October 1, 2017.

The Advanced Registration Form can be found on the back page of this Newsletter and on the website. The full itinerary and final Payment Forms will be available later this summer on the website and with the summer Newsletter. So watch for the future Newsletters and check the Website -

www.azgmalumni.com - for updates to this and other planned events as they become available.

Begin your planning now and place this date on your calendar for an exceptional event to remember. Get your deposit in by September 1st!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Robert Ballou AC Spark Plug



Jim Banyai
GM Truck Engineering



Lyle Clark VSSM



H. James Hall
Buick Motor Division

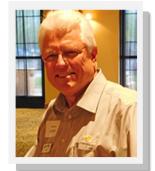


Paul Levesque
New Departure—Hyatt



Derek & Ana Logan

Desert Proving Grounds



Additional New Members for 2017 include:

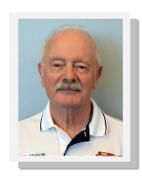
Derek Blackwell - Chevrolet Motor Division Dave Dobson - GMSPO Raymond Feuerstein - Fisher Guide Division Judy Jacobson - Associate Member

Alan Ray

Chevrolet

(Photos are pending.)

Don Spadoni
Electro-Motive Division



GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS



As reported in the January 2017 Newsletter, Bob Adkins has assumed the position of Sub-Director for Membership Development Activities. As such, Bob has begun to get to know our members better, and will be sharing his insights with the membership. In this issue of The Club Reporter, Bob is presenting the first of a series of interviews he has conducted with several of the 17 new members who joined the Club this year. Stay tuned for more interesting features to follow in future Newsletters.

Meet New Member Alan Ray



Alan was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. His father was a carpenter, so it wasn't long before Alan learned how to swing a hammer and saw a piece of wood. Alan would assist his father doing carpentry work up, through, and after graduating from Tucson's Flowing Wells High School in 1974.

Alan describes himself as a quiet person who "kept his nose clean" during his childhood and high school years. This led him to move to Brooklyn, New York to work at the World Headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses as a volunteer from 1975 to 1977.

Alan married his wife of 39 years, Linda, in 1977. Linda was born in Brooklyn, New York and spent part of her childhood in Singapore, then largely in New Jersey. Linda was associated with General Motors long before she met Alan. Linda's father, John Rugge, worked as Sales Promotion Manager on the GM Marketing staff and retired in 1987 after 36 years with GM. Alan and Linda have two sons and a granddaughter, plus a grand baby on the way. Once the children were born, Linda became a full-time homemaker. Their oldest son, Jason, is a Lieutenant in the Lawrence. Kansas Fire Department and has been married to Audra for four years. Jason and Audra's two and a half year old daughter, Hadley, was named after Hadley Rille - the location of the Apollo 15 Moon landing. David, the youngest son, lives in Phoenix and works in Scottsdale. David is in management with Medix, a medical staffing company. David is engaged and has wedding plans for July, 2017.

Alan's General Motors career began with GMC Division holding various positions from a Retail Salesman at a Factory Branch, to Distribution Manager, Market Area Manager, Zone Manager and Dealer Network Development Manager in Southern California. In 2011, with his mother's health failing, Alan moved to Phoenix to assist his mother. He circled back to his early roots as a District Sales Manager with Chevro-

let.

As Alan was to soon find out, his job held some tasty perks. Chevrolet sponsored the Arizona Cardinals, and in conjunction with the NFL draft, held the "Big Red BBQ & Music Festival" with fifteen of the nation's finest barbeque rib "chefs". Alan was happy to serve as one of the rib cook-off judges for 3 years running, and now considers himself a connoisseur of fine rubs and sauces.

Alan decided to retire in 2013 after moving nine times in a 34 year career with General Motors. By the way, Alan also boasts that he has worked for GM in some manner in 48 of the 50 states of the United States.

Alan and Linda's grandest project was building their new home in North Scottsdale. They purchased the land in 2013 and then applied for their building permit. One year later, the house construction started and was completed in November of 2015. Their house is unique in that it is an ICF - "Insulated Concrete Form" house, where the walls are reinforced concrete, not prefab panels, but rather concrete poured into a mold. The mold was fabricated with Styrofoam and reinforcing rods inserted, then the concrete poured into the mold. The Styrofoam mold is three inches thick on each side with six inches of concrete poured into the mold making the exterior walls twelve inches thick. Alan says the house is so insulated they will not turn on their air conditioning until sometime in June!

Alan enjoys hiking and doing woodworking projects in his workshop. He has made furniture, done trim work in his new house, and even took on crafting a guitar several years back. Alan and Linda enjoy gardening and landscaping around their home and visiting their granddaughter in Kansas.

Alan recently re-entered the workforce as the Fleet and Commercial Sales Manager for Sands Chevrolet in the Glendale store. He really enjoys assisting his customers to find the perfect match for their needs. As a former GM corporate employee in sales, and now a dealer employee with present-day product knowledge, Alan has offered to make his fellow GM Alumni Club of AZ members' Chevrolet purchases flow as smooth as silk. Give him a call, he will be glad to assist! (480-580-5287)

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS — CONTINUED

Meet New Member Lyle Clark



Lyle was born in Greenville, Pennsylvania in 1956. Greenville is located in the northwest portion of Pennsvlvania about thirty-five miles south of Erie. grew up in the town of Conneaut Lake, close to Greenville, and graduated from Conneaut Lake High School. The lake provided summer recreational activi-

ties for Lyle and as he got older, he worked on the Barbara J, which was an authentic working stern paddle wheeler docked at the marina in the amusement park on the lake. The Barbara J ran a route around the lake for park-goers and also accommodated special events. Lyle has always enjoyed working with his hands and received an Industrial Arts Award while in high school.

Lyle's career took him through several jobs including his path to employment with General Motors. In 1989 Lyle worked as a contract employee for General Motors as an instructor at Owens College in Findlay, Ohio. Five years later, in 1996, Lyle became a full time employee at the General Motors Training Center in Parma, Ohio, and later, in 1999, a Service Rep covering the northern/central part of Ohio. In 2003, the sun beckoned to come to Arizona. Lyle moved to Phoenix in early 2004 as a Regional Service Engineer.

One of Lyle's most memorable General Motors experiences occurred in 2007. It involved a bright red Camaro SS prototype that was not yet released for production. It was part of Lyle's responsibilities to drive prototype vehicles, go over them with a fine tooth comb and run them through the wringer. The incident occurred in New Mexico while he was driving cross country from Michigan to Arizona. A flatbed tow truck had pulled up behind him. Lyle could see, through his rearview mirror, the tow truck driver taking pictures through the front window of the truck. A moment later the tow truck pulled up alongside Lyle and continued taking pictures. The tow truck accelerated and Lyle thought the driver had his fill of shooting pictures, but the next thing he knew, the tow truck driver pulled in front of Lyle's Camaro. Lyle was flabbergasted to see the driver turned around taking pictures through the rear window of the truck. Of course all this was done while travelling down the highway at 70 miles per hour! Whew...

Lyle retired from General Motors in 2008, but did not slow down. Lyle opened a repair shop in 2009, but unfortunately had to sell the business after eighteen months due to medical issues. After recovery in 2012, a friend asked Lyle to join him as an instructor in the General Motors Automotive Services Educational Program (ASEP) at Glendale Community College. The two year program offers high school graduates the opportunity to earn an Associate in Applied Science degree. The students work on a coop basis at their sponsoring dealership while training to become a GM Certified Technician. Students earn money while they learn, helping them defray the cost of training.

Lyle's friend retired in 2013 giving Lyle the "reins" as the Coordinator for the GM ASEP program. Lyle has responsibility for instructing students and managing a fleet of GM vehicles from Corvettes to SUV's, cars and trucks. These vehicles are provided by General Motors and rotated out so students have access to the latest automotive technologies. All classrooms, dynamometers, and vehicle bays are located in a brand new, eight-million dollar building provided by the college just last year. During the summer months, Lyle teaches an automatic transmission / transaxle overhaul class. His students must disassemble and reassemble a transmission. Then they must successfully run the transmission on the dynamometer to pass the class.

Jackie Buckley, born in California and raised in the Southwest (mainly Arizona), complements Lyle's life as his significant other. Jackie spent many years in five star restaurants as a prep cook and pastry chef.

In 2015 Lyle reached an important milestone in his life, he completed his college studies earning his degree.

Lyle has always enjoyed working on any kind of vehicle, especially his 1973 Chevrolet Nova which he keeps in roadworthy condition to "drive around town". Lyle loves, and has the equipment for metal fabrication and woodworking. He designed and built three sheds for his backyard that serve as his workshops and storage. He has a lathe, drill press, planer, edger, welder, etc. and has built tables, chopping blocks, and fabricated just about anything either he or friends need for repair parts.

DOOR PRIZE" - WINNERS - SANDS CHEVROLET







Vince Walker



Susan Moss

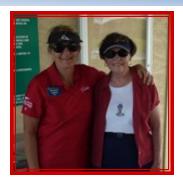
"DOOR PRIZE" - WINNERS - PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK



Jon Moss -Courtesy Chevrolet



Harry Cameron -Liberty Buick - GMC



Beverly Craig -Sands Chevrolet



Cathi Hubbard - \$74



Sue Smeets - \$55



Hal Hubbard - \$40



Lee Humbert - \$25

PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK



Hampton Braun -\$60



Frank Kaminski -\$40

VOLUME 28 Page 13

AWIM 10-YEAR AWARDS



AWIM 10-year Honorees - James Maxwell, Derek Logan, Donald Robins, Vincent Walker, Tomas Piatak, James Smeets, Robert Kohler. Missing from picture: William Klein, Thomas Terry

For more information on AWIM, see www.azgmalumni.com/partners1.html

FOR THE LATEST GM NEWS AND INFORMATION GO TO WWW.GMRETIREE.COM

Note that the GM Alumni Club of Arizona is again featured on the www.gmretiree.com website. Visit the web-

+
+
+

site and click on "CLUBS" on the home page and



then on "FEATURED CLUBS" after scrolling down on the club page. You will be taken to a very complimentary article about your club here in Arizona. Enjoy! You are a part of this!

Advanced Meeting Registration Form Kartchner Caverns - Trail Dust Town Day Trip Wednesday, March 14, 2018

A one day Club "Special Event" which begins and ends with a bus trip beginning at Liberty Buick, Peoria, with a stop at Coulter Tempe Cadillac, Tempe, before proceeding to the Tucson, AZ area. The tour consists of two venues: Kartchner Caverns and Trail Dust Town. There is a choice of one of two available tours to be taken at Kartchner Caverns: Rotunda/Throne Tour or Big Room Tour. Each tour is 1/2 mile long. Each Rotunda/Throne Tour includes 20 people per tour and takes 90 minutes to complete with 50 minutes underground. Each Big Room Tour includes 15 people per tour and takes 13/4 hours to complete with 1 hour underground. Be sure to mark your tour selection choice below. The day continues with a stop at the Trail Dust Town for dinner at the Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse and entrance to the Museum of the Horse Soldier before returning to the Phoenix area.

Estimated	Timina
∟ Stilliateu	minimu.

7:00am - 7:30am Meet at Liberty Buick (Sun City West Riders) 8:00am - 8:30am Meet at Coulter Tempe Cadillac (Sun Lake Riders) 7:30am Liberty Riders Depart for Coulter Tempe Cadillac

8:30am All riders depart for Kartchner Caverns

Individual Details yet to be determined

6:45pm Depart for Phoenix

Dinner: Chicken & BBQ Rib plate with all the fixin's, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Soda

Cost: Cost is \$110.00 Per Person with a commitment and advanced deposit of \$50.00 per person required by September 1, 2017. Costs include Cavern tour, lunch, evening dinner, museum tour, tips and motor coach expenses.

NOTE: Only 48 openings are available for this motor coach trip. Therefore, members will have first options for this trip and must commit and pay a minimum deposit of \$50.00 per person by September 1, 2017. If seat availability remains at that time, guests will be allowed to participate as well at a cost of \$115.00 per person, with October 1, 2017 being the final commitment date for the tour. Full trip payment is due by January 31, 2018. Reminders and additional information will be available on the Club Website www.azgmalumni.com - and through the Club Reporter. Check the website frequently for updates. _____ Cut Here _____

> **Advanced Meeting Registration Form** Kartchner Caverns – Trail Dust Town Day Trip Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Please return a completed portion of this form to: GM Alumni Club of Arizona By September 1, 2017 P.O. Box 7414 Goodyear, AZ 85338

The following will be attending the Kartchner Caverns Day Trip:

20/Tour 15/Tour ___ Deposit \$50.00 Included \$ Member Or Full Cost \$110.00 Included \$_ Spouse/Significant Other Deposit \$50.00 Included \$_ Or Full Cost \$110.00 Included \$

Total Amount Included \$

Tour Selection

Big

Room

Rotunda/

Throne

(Please make checks payable to: GM Alumni Club of Arizona)

ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY September 1, 2017

Any questions can be directed to Larry Sessoms (623-455-8616) or Jon Moss (586-484-3731)

Note: Keep up-to-date by checking the Club Website frequently at www.azgmalumni.com. Check out the "Calendar Tab" for details and Registration Forms for any and all events for the year.

