

## THE CLUB REPORTER

JUNE 2017



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



Hello, GM Alumni, wherever you may be spending your time this summer. Wherever you may be, I hope you are in good health, enjoying your summer activities, and also getting in some relaxation.

Your Alumni Club Board is continuing to plan all the details necessary to make our 2017—2018 Program Year a great success. You will find updates on our planned monthly activities further on in this Newsletter and on our website. We want to encourage you to mark your calendars now with these dates so you will not miss the exceptional programs planned for you. Remember that the summer months will go very fast. Soon we will be back together at our first fall meeting on November 7th at Liberty Buick.

You will see later on in the President's Message that the Club has been able to turn around its decline in membership this year through the addition of 18 new members. We are continuing in this Newsletter to bring you interviews provided by Bob Adkins of several of these new members to provide information to help all of us more quickly welcome these members into our Club. If you have not yet met these new members, I hope you will look forward to doing so at an upcoming meeting.

Enjoy!

*Alan Steffe*

Editor & Publisher, The Club Reporter

SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

- President's Message
- 2017-2018 Program Year Meetings and Events
- Board of Directors March Changes
- Meet Our New Members

Club Website: [www.azgmalumni.com](http://www.azgmalumni.com)  
GM Corporate Website: [www.GMRetiree.com](http://www.GMRetiree.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



You've heard it said before "The GM Alumni Club of AZ" is the best GM retiree club in the nation. While other clubs might want to challenge this, there is plenty of evidence to affirm it is indeed true. We have three distinct characteristics that set us apart. Our Club membership roster is now growing. We have not one, but many ex-

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – CONTINUED

ceptional partnerships. And last but not least, we place a high priority on serving all our members. Allow me to highlight the momentum we've established in recent years.

In just eight years since the bankruptcy, the GM Alumni Club of AZ is raising the bar for all GM retiree clubs by recording an increase in membership. Our membership growth is indeed an anomaly.

Perhaps as GM Alumni enjoying the AZ sunshine and amazing vistas, we understand it best. Your input on the recent surveys provided numerous venues and activities for future meeting venues. We are greatly appreciative to all who provided input. And as always, call me anytime if you have any additional suggestions to discuss.

Likewise, our Club benefits from the solid foundation set in place 43 years ago when the Club was formed in 1974. The connection with other GM Alumni is unlike any other social group. Regardless of your role, division, or length of service, there's a common understanding and exceptional experiences we all share. It's these extraordinary threads that sustains our Club today. Without a doubt we can credit our work experience with the skills to provide a high-quality newsletter, create an information rich website, and meticulously plan first-class events for member enjoyment

We enjoy multiple partnerships that create exceptional opportunities for our members.

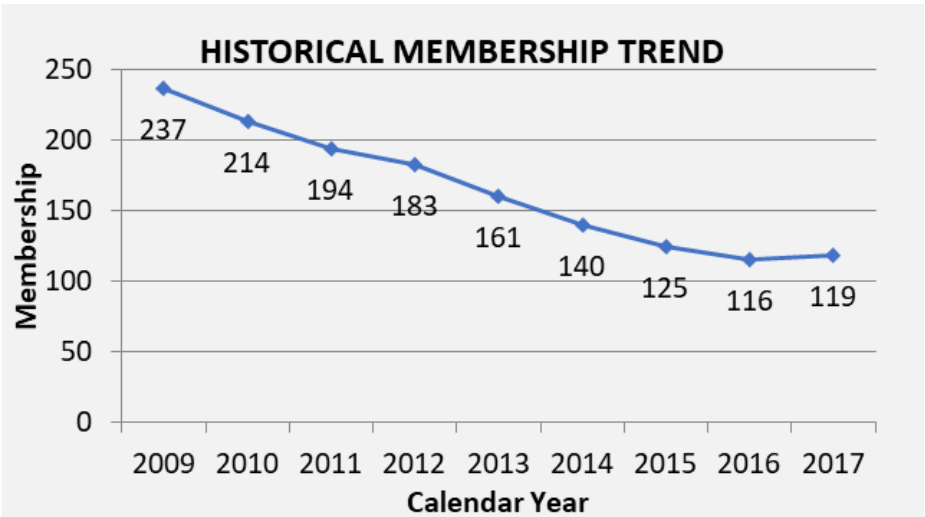


In 2006, Club members began volunteering with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) "A World In Motion" (AWIM), a K-12 Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) program. Each year over 1,000 children in the Greater Phoenix Area build new skills and knowledge about STEM with the encouragement of GM Alumni who volunteer. For many of the school children, this experience re-shapes their future to pursue careers of the highest potential in STEM. If you're interested to volunteer, contact Don Robins on 248.807.3604.

In 2009, our Club President began participating on the GM Retiree Advisory Council. The Council meets quarterly and a total of three club presidents maintain membership on this Council, comprised mostly of GM personnel. And as recent as March 2017, GM Public Policy -- Washington D.C. chose Phoenix as one of only three cities they would visit to provide an update on GM's position on autonomous vehicles. We are already talking with them about future presentations in the Phoenix area.



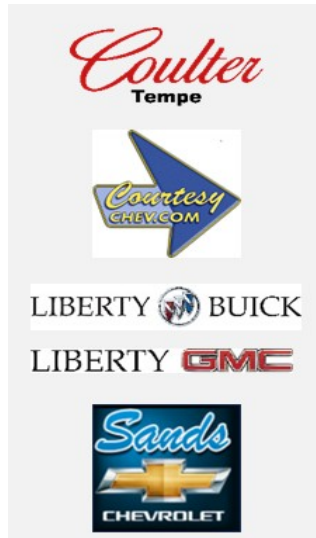
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*Note: We have six more months to grow our membership in 2017!*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

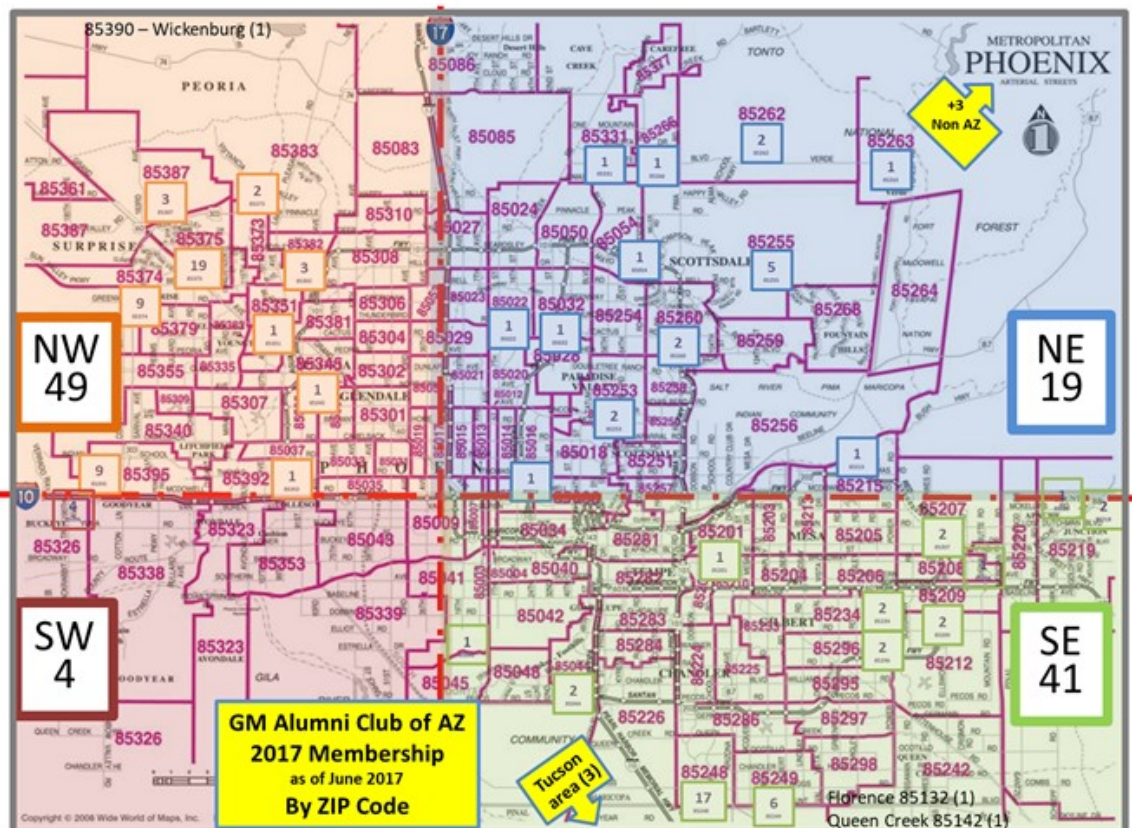
Last but not least is the partnership, with an immediate advantage, for all Club members. We have four local dealers who consistency show great enthusiasm to work with us.



### These loyal dealers support our Club with:

- Dealer-sponsored luncheons in dealer showrooms and local country clubs with product updates presented by GM Executives
- Links to our Club's website on their commercial website
- Commercial announcements in their waiting areas promoting the GM Alumni Club of Arizona
- Parking space for our personal vehicles for our extended day motor coach trips on dealer property
- Nice gifts for our Dealer Door Prize awards and Golf Scrambles
- Use of their executive board room and modern audio visual technology for our Club Board Meetings
- Passing along our Club brochure when GM Retirees purchase a vehicle
- A warm welcome for all Club members who do business with our loyal dealers

In comparison to other large cities, our highway system allows us to get around with greater ease, as long as we avoid rush hour. For planning Club events, we've diagrammed where our members live and have defined five main areas. The Greater Phoenix area is divided into NE, NW, SE, and SW (north & south/I-17 and east & west/I-10) with the fifth area being south of Phoenix, including Tucson.



(Continued on page 4)



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – CONTINUED**

With an eye on where our members live, combined with input from member surveys, we carefully plan our Club events so that there's at least one event in each of the five areas. Suggestions for future venues are always welcome. And we're always looking for volunteers to help us vet the various venues to ensure the environment is the quality our members expect, is barrier-free and offers high-quality food at a reasonable price.

We hope you'll continue to invite your neighbors and friends who are GM Alumni to join us for a Club meeting. Although GM HQ cannot provide addresses due to privacy requirements, they have told us that there are over 3,000 GM Retirees living full-time in AZ. We suspect there are as many as another 1,000 who are here seasonally. TV commercials and newspaper ads are cost prohibitive and not always viewed to let them know we are here. But your support for the Club will go a long way. One option is placing the window decal with our Club logo and website on your vehicle. It's very professional, impressive, and easily removed to reposition. Al and I have one on each of our vehicles in MI and AZ. And I know of Club members who have one on their golf cart too. Just give me a call or an email and I'll send you one right away. You can also encourage GM Alumni to check out our website. Bottom line, your recommendation is by far the best promotion we have. Together we are growing this Club! Be sure to mark Club events on your 2017-2018 calendars today so can plan to attend. Time flies!

See you soon,

*Roxanne*

810.280.1399 *any time*  
rsteffe1@comcast.net

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome **Neil Spizizen** and his wife, **AnnMarie**, (photo pending) as new Associate Members to the Club since our last Newsletter was published. Neil and AnnMarie were sponsored by Bob Goebel and have attended various meetings in the past as guests of the Goebels.

We encourage all members to look forward to meeting them at a future meeting and making them feel 'at home' in the Club.

Word of mouth is the best way to recruit new members. We encourage all members to encourage any of their GM associates to come to one of our meetings and give us a try.



**MARCH 1 - ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING REPORT**

At the Board's last Meeting on March 1, 2017 at our loyal dealer, Coulter Tempe, the Board passed several motions that will affect our upcoming 2017-2018 Program Year and membership renewals for the 2018 Calendar Year.

**Guest Charges to Increase** As was mentioned in the March 2017 Newsletter, each guest of members and their spouses attending any charged meeting or event will be charged \$5.00 more than the rate charged for members and their spouse/significant other. This will be applicable to all charged meetings and events beginning with the 2017-2018 Program Year starting in the fall.

**Incentive for Members Bringing in New Members** When a current member sponsors a new member (first time) who joins the Club, the Club will reward both the current and new member with a \$10.00 coupon that can be applied toward the cost of a future meeting or event. It is felt that word of mouth is the best way of recruiting new members to our Club, and current members are the best ambassadors to bring in fellow GM associates.

**Lifetime Membership Designation** The Board also moved to create a free "lifetime membership" for members in the calendar year following their attainment of age 90. Thus all current 2017 members who have attained the age of 90 or higher by the end of 2017 will be recognized as life members, with no yearly membership fee, beginning in the 2018 Membership Year and going forward. The 2018 Membership Renewal/Application Forms will incorporate this membership option and require that birthdates be supplied with the completed forms to be eligible for this designation.

Keep these changes in mind as they will begin to appear in future communications and promotions for upcoming meetings and events and on the 2018 Membership Renewal Forms that will be available later this year.

Should anyone have any questions about these changes, feel free to contact me with your questions and/or concerns.

*Alan Steffe*

Secretary/Treasurer  
alansteffe@yahoo.com

**2017—2018 PROGRAM YEAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

We hope everyone has added the dates for our 2017—2018 Meetings and events on your calendars, since we have planned an exciting and interesting calendar of events for the year. ***There has been one change in the date of the December Dinner Theater program from December 7th to December 14th, since they have now finalized their programs for this year. Please note this change on your calendar now.***

Also note that the ***March 2018 Kartchner Cavern Trip has limited availability and requires your commitment and registration for to be submitted by September 1, 2017.***

The complete calendar of events with more details on each event is now available on the Club website at <http://www.azgmalumni.com/calendar.html> and follows on the next page.

## 2017–2018 PROGRAM YEAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS – CONTINUED

Tuesday

November 7, 2017

**Dealer-Sponsored  
Luncheon with GM  
Product Presentation**

This is a dealer-sponsored luncheon provided by Liberty Buick GMC at their Buick dealership in Peoria. A special GM speaker yet to be announced will be providing a special GM Product Presentation.

Thursday

December 14, 2017

*(This is a changed date)***Arizona Broadway  
Dinner Theater  
Matinee**

Once again we will be attending the highly acclaimed Arizona Broadway Dinner Theater matinee for a performance of ***South Pacific***. Be swept away to the mysterious island of Bali Ha'i in the South Pacific, where fun, laughter, and love await with very many well-known musical numbers.

This venue was greatly enjoyed by all who attended last December's performance. Great food! Great entertainment! And a chance for great social interaction as the holiday season approaches. Join the fun!



Wednesday

January 17, 2018

**Border Patrol  
Presentation  
at the EVIT**

Since the topic of Border Patrol surfaced as one of the leading topics of interest to the membership who completed last year's survey, we have invited a speaker from the Tucson Sector Office of the US Border Patrol to join us at the East Valley Institute of Technology Culinary School. They will update us on their all important role to our country on the topic that is very much in the news today. It is getting a lot of attention in Washington and has major impact on the state of Arizona.



**More details and Registration Forms for each meeting and event can be found on the Club Website at [www.azgmalumni.com /calendar.html](http://www.azgmalumni.com/calendar.html).**

**2017–2018 PROGRAM YEAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS – CONTINUED****Tuesday****February 13, 2018****McDowell Sonoran  
Conservancy  
Presentation**

In February we will be privileged to learn more about the unique environment we have in Arizona and the steps being taken to preserve this unique environment for many generations yet to come. The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy was formed in 1991. We will learn about its history and many programs regarding preservation, education, and research. The Meeting and dinner location is yet to be finalized.

**Wednesday****March 14, 2018****SPECIAL EVENT****Kartchner Caverns Tour & Trail Dust Town for Dinner**

**This is a very special day trip with limited seating requiring advanced registration by September 1, 2017. See further details and the Registration Form on pages 8 & 9.**

**Tuesday****April 3, 2018****Picnic-in-the-Park  
(Site TBD)**

Last year's Picnic-in-the-Park was a huge success, with all in attendance enjoying group camaraderie, fun games, and good food and drink. This year's Picnic will be building on last year's successes to provide even more fun and enjoyment. Don't miss out on the last social event of the year before the summer heat arrives and the snowbirds all leave the valley. Stay tuned for more details as they are finalized.

**Annual Golf Scramble****April TBD, 2018**

The Annual Golf Scramble will be held at **PebbleCreek Country Club** in Goodyear, AZ on a date in April yet to be determined. It is open to all men and women of all golf skill levels. Begin planning for your team now. Or come as an individual and be placed on a team. Above all, plan now to join the fun in April!

*Enjoy good times with friends, new and old, as we share  
our legacy with General Motors  
while experiencing the rich bounty of Arizona.*



## 2017–2018 PROGRAM YEAR MEETINGS AND 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 communication. 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 **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 next 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 a future Newsletter. So watch for the future Newsletters and check the Website -

[www.azgmalumni.com](http://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!**



**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 ½ 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 1¾ 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 Timing:**

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
	<i>Individual Details yet to be determined</i>
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](http://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:**

Member _____	Deposit \$50.00	Included \$ _____
	Or Full Cost \$110.00	Included \$ _____
Spouse/Significant Other _____	Deposit \$50.00	Included \$ _____
	Or Full Cost \$110.00	Included \$ _____

Tour Selection	
Rotunda/ Throne 20/Tour	Big Room 15/Tour
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Amount Included \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(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](http://www.azgmalumni.com).  
Check out the "Calendar Tab" for details and Registration Forms for any and all events for the year.

**GM Alumni Club  
of Arizona**

## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS



Bob Adkins, Sub-Director for Membership Development Activities, presented outstanding interviews of two of our new members in the April issue of The Club Reporter. Bob is continuing in this Newsletter with interviews of two more of the new members who have joined us this year. He will be continuing with more interesting interviews to follow in future Newsletters. If you enjoy this information, look up Bob at future meetings and give him your personal comments and thanks for a job well done. Feel free to contact Bob at [rf\\_adkins@yahoo.com](mailto:rf_adkins@yahoo.com).

### Meet New Member Bev Craig



Robert & Beverley Craig - GMAC

Bev was born in 1938 in Omaha, Nebraska. Her father was a pharmaceutical salesman, which led them to Kansas City, Missouri and a brand new house in Leawood, Kansas. Prior to entering Shawnee Mission High School, her father passed away unexpectedly, and Bev was introduced to the workforce at an early age, first as a babysitter, then clerical work when she reached 16. Her hard work also paid-off scholastically when she was elected to the National Honor Society.

Bev had wanted to be an accountant but it was 1956, and her college advisor informed her that women did not go into that program and suggested she pursue a teaching degree. In the meantime, Bev became engaged to her first husband. They were married the following summer and lived at "poverty level" while her husband finished his BA and then went on to get an MA and PhD. Bev and her husband were blessed with two wonderful children, daughter Karen and son Chad.

During the year Bev's husband took his first position at the VA Hospital in Roseburg, Oregon, the marriage ended. Bev and her children, then ages eight and one, returned to Leawood, Kansas to live with her mother so she could get a job to save money and regain independence.

Bev quickly received two job offers, one at Farmer's Insurance and the other at General Motors Acceptance Corp. (GMAC). It's no mystery that Bev decided on the GMAC position, and we're certainly glad she did. At twenty-eight years, Bev started at the lowest level as a file clerk, but her work ethic and love for a fast-pace soon paid off as she was moved to a steno position.

In the days before computers, the finance managers of car dealerships would call GMAC. Bev would write the information from the potential car buyer's application onto a blank form, then, run to the front of the room to check massive spindles loaded with index cards for open accounts and previously rejected applications. Information was copied, and Bev would race to the paid in full files to check prior history and race back to her desk to call the Credit Bureau. Time was always of the essence, as Bev remembers nearly being knocked to the ground by another steno who happened to be superior in size and much younger. Thus with a swing of the younger woman's hip, Bev was knocked out of the way losing access to the file drawer.

After several years, Bev was promoted to the position of "Customer Representative" which she loved. Bev found herself in charge of specific dealer retail accounts. She answered questions called in by customers, quoted payoffs and manually created past due notices because computers were still not available. They would get a lot of calls from past due customers who would give a date they planned to send their past due payment. Bev recalls an early learning experience. She took a promise for a payment to be mailed without pulling the customer's account card. It turned out that the customer was a "skip" (a person who had moved and wasn't particularly interested in GMAC knowing their new address). Had Bev pulled the card first, the word "SKIP" would have been prominently displayed thereon and she would have

(Continued on page 11)



## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS — CONTINUED

*(Bev Craig - Continued from page 10)*

avoided an embarrassing moment when the Credit Representative blew his top!

Bev's two most memorable moments working for GMAC involved facing robbers with pistols pointed at her. Both incidents occurred while working in the Kansas City Control Branch Office. Bev was well known to zone-out as she focused on her work shutting out all conversations and not hearing her name being called. Somehow on both occasions, she finally realized that the usual office clatter had ceased. Bev looked up to see a man with a yellow hard hat, black material draped over his face, wearing black gloves, pointing a gun and saying "Get to the back of the room". Bev looked back and every other employee was already there, most of them with their hands up. Bev recalls it was like something out of a horror movie and it would be months before the nightmares ceased.

Some years passed and Bev never expected to be anything but a Customer Representative. It was the top pay grade open for a woman at the time. However, rumors started that women were being promoted. It was about 1981 when Bev was promoted to a Telephone Credit Representative (TCR) and later promoted to a Supervisory position.

Bev's second husband, Bob, came into her life at a church sponsored singles dance. They were married in 1983. Bob grew up in the St. Louis, Missouri area and served in the US Army. Bob was stationed in Germany outside of wartime.

In early 1985, Bev and Bob arrived home from a trip abroad to find an urgent message for Bev to call her Branch Manager. Her first thought was "What on earth have I done wrong?" It turned out Bev was being offered a promotion to Credit Manager in an office in Pleasant Hill, California. After one day (all the decision time she was given) and with Bob's assurances that he could get a transfer with TWA, Bev accepted the position. Note: Bob was not able to swing the transfer, so he retired in 1986 after 33 years of service with TWA and the Craigs settled into the Oakland-San Francisco

area. After retirement, Bob worked several years as a travel agent.

In 1991, Bev was sent to Waterloo, Iowa to manage a new operation, a national tele-computer collection center (think robo calls and 100 plus part time employees to be hired). Two years later, Bev



1991 - Bev Craig, Manager TCS Center, Waterloo, IA

accepted a 55 and out early retirement offer to cap-off a wonderful GM career.

After Bev retired from GM, she spent a couple of years working for two small companies, but found she missed the facets of a large corporation, so she retired for good. Bev and Bob moved to Kansas City where her daughter and only grandson, Michael, lived. Accustomed to working at a very fast pace, retirement did not slow her down, so one day, while dusting the top of the water heater, she decided it was "time to get a life."

Bev's primary hobby became genealogical research which she enjoys immensely.

In 2001, Bev and Bob moved to Sun City Grand in Surprise, Arizona. They love the sunny days, flowers year round and playing softball (Bob does this three days a week), bridge, Mah Jongg and Bocce Ball, to name just a few of their many activities.

As Bev says "Life is Good!!"

**See you all at Liberty Buick on November 7, 2017 in Peoria.**



## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS – CONTINUED

*Meet New Member Derek Logan*

Derek &amp; Ana Logan - DPG

B o r n i n Yonkers, New York on December 16<sup>th</sup>, Derek lived there only five years before his family moved to Arizona. He grew up in Tucson attending area schools and

graduating from Tucson High School early at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. When he found out the family was moving to San Diego, Derek decided to attend a 12<sup>th</sup> grade year in San Diego to take fun classes such as surfing, advanced physics, pre-calculus, computer programming, jazz band and another year of auto shop. Oh, and in his spare time, he played trombone in the marching band, belonged to the scuba diving club, served as a teacher's assistant for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, rebuilt a Toyota Corona engine, rode dirt bikes in the desert and rejuvenated a Renault 16.

While growing up, Derek has fond memories of visiting his uncle's getaway beach house in northern New Jersey and taking out the twelve-foot aluminum boat as a young boy. Especially vivid was getting caught in bad weather and having to run for the beach. After pulling the boat onshore, Derek had to walk several miles to home and was concerned his parents would be upset with him. As it turned-out they were relieved he was safe and commended him for having the good sense to get out of harm's way.

Other childhood memories stem from Derek's father taking the family abroad to teach while on sabbatical. Consequently, Derek lived in Switzerland for one year and Australia for six months while his father taught at local universities.

Having always loved motorized vehicles whether they had two wheels, four wheels or wings, it was natural for Derek to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University

of Arizona. Again, being active was in Derek's nature, so no surprise that he was in the university's SAE student chapter and entered collegiate design competitions for Formula, Baja and Super-mileage. He was a member of 1st Formula SAE team at UA,



Formula SAE Car Team

leader of three other Formula SAE teams, leader of 1st Baja SAE team and led the chapter for two years. Derek also lays claim to being the first to begin fund raising

campaigns at UA's Spring Fling, first to get a Formula SAE car on display at Tucson's World of Wheels car show, and first to design, build and compete a dual-purpose car with adjustable suspension and interchangeable engines in both the Baja SAE and Formula collegiate competitions. He also paid



1990 Baja Team

for that car and still has it! In addition to the SAE activities he took up flying and earned his VFR with endorsements for tailwheel and aerobatic. It helped him achieve a top 3% score nationwide for pilot and navigator on the Air Force Officer Qualification Test.

After graduating from college, Derek found himself working for Orbital Sciences Corporation in Chandler, Arizona as a rocket design engineer of a launch rocket to test kinetic kill vehicles for a missile defense system. He was also the cost control manager for the first four LEAP (Lightweight ExoAtmospheric Projectile) rocket programs and then project manager for all spin-stabilized rocket programs plus weather data collection systems. Launching the first LEAP rocket at White Sands Missile Range was a thrilling event.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS — CONTINUED

*(Derek Logan—Continued from page 13)*

Derek began working for General Motors in January of 1994 in R&D then as a development engineer for the Truck Group at the Desert Proving Grounds in Mesa, Arizona. He remembers acquiring his CDL in heavy truck and taking numerous test trips to Death Valley at temperatures into the 130's.

In September of 1998, Derek moved to the Silao Plant in Mexico as a senior quality engineer providing design liaison to the assembly plant. While in Mexico Derek won the Chairman's Honors Award for his efforts in launching the Chevy Avalanche including getting the water sealing tight with acceptable tailgate closing efforts. A significant memorable event was meeting Vicente Fox when he was the governor of Guanajuato, before becoming the president of Mexico.

Derek moved to the Arlington, Texas plant in April of 2002. As a Senior Quality Engineer he continued tackling quality issues, identifying root cause and resolving issues using Shainin Red X strategies. One issue involved out of balance tires. Derek designed an ingenious use of barbells and a tension gauge to discover that the root cause was tire slippage on the wheel rim when the vehicle was braked hard. The tire manufacturer was contacted and the issue was resolved.

In April of 2003, Derek became a Durability Engineer at the Nissan Arizona Test Center in Stanfield, Arizona. Derek has held the positions of the Durability Group Manager, Proving Ground Operations Manager and is currently Project Manager for Competitive Assessment. It's a tough job, but somebody has to travel around the country to the auto shows to look at and touch all the new cars and trucks!

Achievements working for Nissan include first to set up a Mexico-based durability group for Nissan vehicles to be sold in US, durability development of Tiida (Versa in US) for Mexico, Brazil and Europe markets and first to develop a full-size commercial van for the US market.

Tinkering with automobiles has also been a pastime with Derek. He rebuilt the 350 V8 in his fa-

ther's '75 Camaro Type LT, installing flat-top pistons, changing the cam to one a little more aggressive, and putting in a Rochester 4-bbl in place of the 2-bbl. Derek purchased a '69 GTO Judge (with matching numbers) for \$800 out of Phoenix and towed it back to San Diego behind his Chevy LUV truck (with an Isuzu 87hp engine). He rebuilt the GTO's engine with lots of upgraded parts including the hottest tri-power cam



1969 Pontiac GTO Judge

ever made by GM. (this project was done while a senior in high school). The finished product was superfast and could run a low twelve second quarter mile, with one exception of running a high eleven second quarter mile, right after he replaced the collars on the shift rods.

It was now time to transform his 2WD LUV truck. Wanting to go off-roading with his LUV, a Jeep front axle and transfer case were installed to make it a 4WD. The 87hp Isuzu engine just didn't do it, so a 350 V8 with a T-350 automatic transmission were dropped into the LUV and it ran fantastic! Jumping was the best until Derek smashed the special Hooker Headers for the third time and also bent the front axle. So, a stronger full-size ¾ ton axle was found for the LUV. But worried about potentially bending the frame, Derek decided to put the LUV truck body on top of the ¾-ton Chevy chassis. Worried that the front might be too heavy for jumping, he moved the engine back 7", cut out the firewall to move the cab further forward, lengthened the front end 7" and made it a tilt front end. To



2002 LUV Truck

gain leg room, he cut off the back of the cab, welded on the back half of another cab that was

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## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS — CONTINUED

*(Derek Logan—Continued from page 13)*

cut further forward and lengthened the doors to match. Before adding the bed, the remaining frame section was cut 17" to bring the rear wheels in line with where the bed's wheel wells would be. To complete the LUV transformation, a 4" lift kit was added and 40" Ground Hawg tires gave it the finishing touch.

Derek has done volunteer work on the SAE Board of Directors, chaired the SAE Fellows Committee, chaired the SAE International Activities Committee, and chaired the SAE International Advisory Committee. He was a founding member of the SAE Executive Nomination committee, held almost all positions in the SAE Arizona section including chair in 1994/95, was a member of the SAE Sections Board, and was the Sections Board representative to the Mexico Section.

Not able to sit idle too long, Derek stays busy with his current volunteer activities as Chair of the SAE Publications Board, Chair of first-ever Driving Skill Standard Committee, Chair of SAE Arizona Section, Leader for SAE AWIM program at Butterfield Elementary School in Maricopa, Arizona, founding member of Arizona Communities United (also serving on their Board of Directors) and President of the Pinelake Estates HOA.

In June of 1990, Derek married his bride, Ana Maria who was born in Santa Ana, Sonora, Mexico, and grew up in Hermosillo. Like Derek, she is also very active from organizing funding to add an additional classroom (while she was in junior high school), working for Time Life magazine during high school, travelling across Mexico with friends and working in the federal government's Census Taking Department during College. After completing her degree in Computer Information Systems, Ana Maria moved to the U.S. and found herself fascinated with the world of sales. She has been a sales associate (signing 400 clients in her first year), a sales director, and is currently a realtor in Chandler, Arizona. She volunteers as the leader for the SAE AWIM program at Fulton Elementary School in Chandler, AZ and is also the incoming assistant to the Treasurer at the SAE Arizona Section.

Derek and Ana Maria have two children, a son,

Santiago, and a daughter, Karina, who were both born in Mexico while Derek was on assignment with GM de Mexico. They enjoy many activities as a family, a couple and individually from boating, aviation, dirt biking, off-roading, and shooting to



Santiago, Ana, Karina, & Derek traveling the world and raising their children. Santiago is graduating with Distinguished Honors this spring from Hamilton High School and will be attending Barrett Honors College at ASU in the fall to pursue a degree in Biomedical Sciences. Karina will be a junior next year at Hamilton and currently has a 4.2 GPA.

One of Derek's fondest memories of their family travels was visiting Switzerland and showing the family where he lived as a child. They met two retirees, who twice a week, tended to a small garden by the Grandvaux train station (overlooking Lake Geneva). One (an Italian) rode a Harley-Davidson, the other (a Frenchman) rode a Vespa. The gentlemen invited the Logans to visit their garden. Some chairs were produced and a couple glasses of wine were poured. Neither of them spoke English, but the Italian spoke Spanish and French. So communication was in Spanish to the Italian who translated in French for his buddy. It was so impromptu and the magnificent view looking out over Lake Geneva with the French Alps in the background, was just as Derek remembered it as a 4th-grader.

When the children graduate from college, Derek plans to return to aviation. He loves performing aerobatics, "there is nothing like the feel of freedom you have in an airplane doing aileron rolls, loops, hammerheads and spins."

As far as retirement goes, if and when Derek and Ana Maria decide to "officially" retire, they do not plan to sit at home. They will be traveling the world. Derek says there are just "too many places to see and people to meet."