

THE CLUB REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 2017



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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Hello, GM Alumni! As the summer continues to rapidly pass us by, it is time to begin seriously thinking about several of our upcoming Club meetings that will be upon us soon. Of particular interest is the **early deadline** for advance reservations for the **March Kartchner Caverns Tour**, which has a limit of 48 seats available. The September 1st advanced member only registration deadline has come and gone with some seats still available. Therefore, we are now opening up this

trip to guests as well, with an **October 1st final registration deadline**, on a first-come first-served basis. An updated registration form is now on the website and included later in this newsletter.

Also our first meeting of the year will be a **free luncheon** sponsored by Liberty Buick GMC on **November 7th**. Be sure to check out these particular events as further explained in this Newsletter and all other 2017-2018 year events as listed on the Club website and submit your registration forms in a timely manner. Note that there have been some changes highlighted from the original meeting schedule sent out previously.

As you read further in the Club Reporter, you should find the President's Message and the New Member interview of particular interest, along with other news of note.

Enjoy! I look forward to seeing you on November 7th!

Alan Steffe

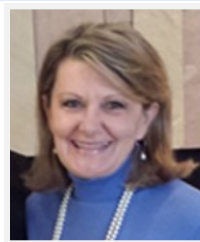
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Club Website: www.azgmalumni.com
GM Corporate Website: www.GMRetiree.com

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's Message
- Meet Our New Member
- 2017-2018 Program Year Meetings and Events

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As summer comes to a close, Al & I are counting down the weeks until we return to sunny AZ. The summer has been filled with many sweet memories with family, travel, and rounds of golf (my handicap continues to improve). But AZ is a special place, and we're looking forward to returning in early October.

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

We've also enjoyed time spent with special longtime friends of our Club, Marsha Hall-Jenkins and Amy Witt of GM Retiree Communications--GM World HQ, and Ashley Lerner of GM Public Policy. We made two new strategic connections with representatives from MAVEN and the GM Media Archive. And more opportunities evolved when Al, an alum of GMI/Kettering (EE 1967), and I attended the GMI/Kettering Homecoming. I'd like to share how we are cultivating these relationships on behalf of the GM Alumni Club of AZ.

The GM Heritage Center opens its doors to retirees twice a year at an open house. Al & I have been fortunate enough to attend the last two years. This extraordinary museum has thousands of classic and modern era GM vehicles with a display of 165 on a rotational basis, including the CERV1, also known as the Chevrolet Engineering Research Vehicle. Perhaps you heard that GM repurchased the CERV1 at the Barrett-Jackson in Scottsdale this past year for the collection at the GM Heritage Center. Our Jon Moss was intimately involved with the CERV family of vehicles and can tell you more. The Center is also the permanent home of the corporation's historic literature and artifacts. Al and I consider the discovery of the Media Archive a real treasure. We're investigating the possibility of borrowing old TV commercials. If you have a favorite GM commercial, please call me on 810.280.1399 and I'll request it specifically. If it's available for loan, we'll share it with the Club at an upcoming Club meeting. For more on the Center, check out www.gmheritagecenter.com.



GM Heritage Center, Sterling Heights, MI May 18, 2017
Roxanne Steffe, Marsha Hall-Jenkins, Al Steffe, Amy Witt

On Tuesday, July 25th Al attended the GM Retiree Advisory Council Meeting at GM World HQ in Detroit. Our Club is one of only three retiree clubs, in the nation, serving on this council with GM personnel. We're viewed as a very successful and progressive Club. In fact, Al was invited to examine www.gmretiree.com and evaluate upcoming website enhancements. As always, he did so with great interest and personal pride to document suggestions that might enhance the usability of the website. Whether his suggestions are applied to this release, in the future, or used in a different form, we are honored to contribute. Another benefit of our relationship with GM Retiree Communications is the GM product subject matter expert they continue to provide us each year. This year Liberty Buick is hosting our November 7th Club meeting and Mr. Sam Russell, Director of Buick Marketing, will be our special speaker at the beautiful Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City. Liberty Buick and Liberty GMC have a long history of generosity to our Club. Not surprisingly, Liberty has received numerous awards from General Motors over the years. Bring along your guests and help us showcase what makes Liberty Buick - Liberty GMC great dealerships to work with. This event will be first-class. Don't miss out. Be sure to register by Friday, October, 27 2017. Applications are also available at www.azgmalumni.com.

Al (EE 1967) and I had the pleasure of joining Robert (ME 1967) and Barbara Goebel at the GMI/Kettering Homecoming on May 18th at the recently refurbished GM Factory 1 in Flint. GM continues

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

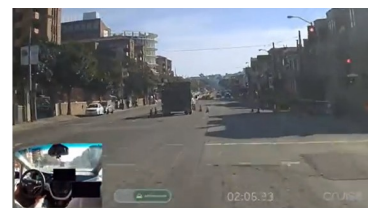


GMI/Kettering Homecoming at GM Factory 1
Flint, Michigan May 18, 2017

to invest heavily through the GM Foundation to various initiatives, like the refurbishment of Factory 1 and \$4,000,000 to fund new outdoor and indoor lab spaces for Kettering University and its industry partnerships to conduct product research and development at the university.

Upcoming opportunity in AZ -- There are nearly 250 GMI/Kettering alumni living in the Greater Phoenix & Tucson area, and about two dozen are members of our Club. Kettering is planning an alumni visit to AZ sometime in 2018. Updates will be available soon. These are usually well-attended and we're very interested to make contact with many more GM Alumni and invite them to join us for full membership, as well as those with GM roots now employed with other organizations. They could join us as Associate Members.

GM Public Policy continues their autonomous vehicle roadshow and we're in discussion with them about a return to AZ. Ideally it could be timed with an upcoming announcement related to test results taking place in Scottsdale. But we're open to an update anytime they are available. Stay tuned. We will update you with a quick email as soon as we know more. Until then, check out a three minute video GM Public Policy provided of an autonomous GM vehicle driving the busy streets of San Francisco. You can watch the driver/passenger in the lower left corner as the car navigates busy intersections, quick and unexpected stops by other vehicles and more.



<http://www.azqmalumni.com/previous-events--photos.html>

I've saved my most treasured relationship experience for last. As you can appreciate, there's always some trepidation that what I provide will be of interest and helpful to you. I strive to share the type of information that I would want to know as a Club member, things that convey we are vital and moving forward. And I include my phone number in the event someone wants to call and speak with me personally to inquire further or make a suggestion.

My wish came true one day after we published the last newsletter when I received a call from a member who expressed interest in adding gluten-free, dairy-free items to the menu whenever possible. Words cannot express how pleased I was to receive this call from a member who desires to make our Club even better. I immediately sent an email to the entire board asking that each person leading an event look into this for their event. Likewise, AI has modified the registration form for every event to include a section for you to identify special dietary needs. Each event/venue requires a contract. So your consideration to let us know ASAP will be greatly appreciated. We will likewise, phone you if we're unable to meet your request. And if this occurs before we've given our final count to the venue, we can provide a refund.

I hope that if there's something more we can do to help you get more out of this Club, that you will contact me directly. I will be very happy to talk with you. My cell number is 810.280.1399. Hope to see you on November 7th!

Roxanne

rsteffe1@comcast.net

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS



Bob Adkins, Sub-Director for Membership Development Activities, continues to produce outstanding interviews of our new members in the hope that these will give you insight that allows you to get to know these new members more quickly and make them feel welcome. Hopefully you will enjoy this information and note the depth of experiences our members have. I would encourage you to 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.

Meet New Member Lowell Ulrich



Lowell & Gail Ulrich -
Chevrolet Engineering Center

Lowell was born on December 19, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan and was raised in the motor city. It was just natural that he gravitated toward automobiles, so after graduating from

Cass Technical High School in January 1963, Lowell was hired by the Chevrolet Engineering Center right out of high school as a co-op student while he attended General Motors Institute (then GMI - now Kettering University).

After graduating from GMI with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1968, Lowell continued with the Chevrolet Engineering Center, Warren, Michigan. He initially worked in the Materials Group doing research and development until 1969, when he moved over to the Vehicle Safety Group to certify the "G" van for MVSS compliance.

During his days from 1972 to 1976, while working full time for General Motors, Lowell spent his

nights attending law school classes full time!

After graduating from law school in 1976, Lowell launched his law career as an attorney working for Platt, Peacock & von Wiegen in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. Lowell then moved into private practice from 1978 until 1982. Lowell had his sights set on winning a judgeship. He came in second in a four-way primary, then finished first in the November election serving as a Probate and Juvenile Judge in Chippewa County, Michigan from January 1983 thru August 2012. Lowell's most memorable judgeship event was serving as the President of the Michigan Probate Judges Association from September 2003 thru August 2004.

Lowell and Gail were married on June 28, 1969, that makes over 48 years together. Gail was born on August 15th in Detroit, Michigan. Gail was raised in Detroit and attended Cass Technical High School graduating in January 1963. She attended Wayne State University (with two years at Michigan State University) graduating in 1967 with a degree in English Education. Her most memorable



events in college included trips with graduate art students to the Toledo Ohio Museum of Arts and the Chicago Art Museum. Gail is also proud of

(Continued on page 5)

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS — CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

receiving her Master of Arts degree in Library Science from Central Michigan University.

From 1968 to 1978, Gail worked at the Wayne, Macomb, and Chippewa Counties Department of Social Services as an intake worker and a supervisor. After being a stay at home mom for 6 years, Gail began work in Sault Ste Marie as a substitute teacher, then took a full time job as an elementary library media specialist, until budget cuts put her back into the classroom as a high school social studies teacher.

Lowell and Gail have two children, their daughter, Jessie, who is single and their son, Chad, who is married to Amy and has their two grandchildren, Megan 9 and Joshua 7.

The Ulrichs moved to Florence, Arizona in August 2015 and stay busy with their hobbies and

retirement pursuits. Lowell enjoys exercising and motorcycling, not just locally. He has done long road trips such as from Detroit to Vancouver, BC and from Sault Ste Marie, Michigan to New Orleans, Louisiana. This year he went to Austin, Texas to watch motorcycle racing. Gail enjoys reading, biking, cooking and various art and craft projects.

Both Lowell and Gail love to travel, but of all things memorable, they treasure their marriage and raising their children as their most cherished memories.



November 7th Meeting

Palmbrook Country Club

Sponsored by Liberty Buick GMC

**Registration Forms due by
October 27**

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

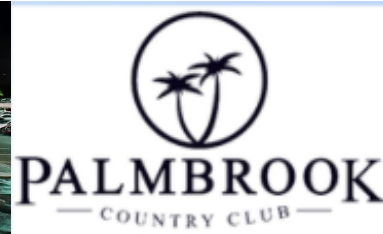
2017–2018 PROGRAM YEAR MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Tuesday

November 7, 2017

(This is a changed location)

Dealer-Sponsored with
Sam Russell, Dir. of
Marketing for Buick



This is a dealer-sponsored luncheon provided by Liberty Buick GMC at **Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City**. The special GM speaker will be **Sam Russell, Director of Marketing for Buick**. Come to see the new Buick products and learn about future Buick planning, while enjoying the company of your fellow GM retirees and alumni. *(A Registration Form is available on page 10.)*

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!

(A Registration Form is available on page 11.)

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 limited to the first 48 registrations. **Advanced registration is required by October 1, 2017. See *further details and the Registration Form on pages 6 & 7.***

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

The March Day Trip via motor coach to **Kartchner Caverns** occurs on **Wednesday, March 14, 2018**, and has now been opened to guests as



well. It includes a choice of one of two different cavern tours — 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 member/spouse and \$115 per guest. It is limited to the first **48 people** to register. **A \$50 per person minimum deposit is required by October 1, 2017** to hold your place on the bus, with registrations being accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Final payment is due by January 31, 2018. So if you want to reserve your seat on the bus, remember to get your Registration Form in as soon as possible, or **by October 1, 2017** at the latest.

The **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 year on the website and with a future 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.

It's first-come first served! Get your deposit in by October 1st at the latest!

Event 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 two 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 1¼ 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

8:00am - 8:30am

7:30am

8:30am

Meet at Liberty Buick (Sun City West Riders)

Meet at Coulter Tempe Cadillac (Sun Lake Riders)

Liberty Riders Depart for Coulter Tempe Cadillac

All riders depart for Kartchner Caverns

Individual Details yet to be determined and will be communicated at a later date

6:45pm

Depart for Phoenix

Note: Only 48 openings are available for this trip. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis until that number has been met.

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

Cost: Cost is \$110.00 Per Member/Spouse (\$115.00 Per Guest) with a commitment and **advanced deposit of \$50.00 per person required by October 1, 2017.** Costs include Cavern tour, lunch, evening dinner, museum tour, tips and motor coach expenses. **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.

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Event 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**
P.O. Box 7414
Goodyear, AZ 85338

The following will be attending the Kartchner Caverns Day Trip:

(A minimum \$50.00 deposit per person must be included with this registration form.)

| | | | | <u>Tour Selection</u> | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | <u>Rotunda/ Throne</u> | <u>Big Room</u> |
| Member _____ | Cost \$110.00 | Included \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Spouse/Significant Other _____ | Cost \$110.00 | Included \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Guest _____ | Cost \$115.00 | Included \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Guest _____ | Cost \$115.00 | Included \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Are/Were Guests Affiliated with GM? _____ <div style="text-align: center;">(Name of Affiliate)</div> | | | Total Amount Included \$ _____ | | |

If special dietary needs, please advise, and we will attempt to accommodate: _____

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

ALL DEPOSIT CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 1, 2017.

Any questions can be directed to Ken Wechselberger (623-251-3684) 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.

Meeting Registration Form
Palmbrook Country Club – Sun City, AZ
GM Speaker – Sam Russell, Director Buick Marketing
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Our 2017-2018 program year starts on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Our first meeting is **sponsored by** one of our loyal dealers – **Liberty Buick GMC** – and held at **Palmbrook Country Club** at 9350 W. Greenway Road in Sun City, AZ 85351. Our special GM speaker for the meeting is Sam Russell, Director Buick Marketing. New Buick and GMC vehicles will also be onsite for your review. This no-charge event provides an excellent opportunity to start the year learning about the interesting things happening with Buick, more about Club events planned for the coming year, and catching-up with other members after our summer break.

Directions:

From the AZ-101 Loop on the west side of Phoenix, exit onto W Bell Road continuing past the Liberty Buick dealership to N 91st Avenue. Turn left on N 91st Avenue for 1 mile to W Greenway Road and turn right. Palmbrook CC will be on the right.

Time: 10:30 AM Check-In & New
 Car Review
 11:30 AM Business Meeting
 12:00 Noon Lunch
 1:00 PM GM Speaker, Sam Russell –
 Director Buick Marketing

Menu:

Menu is yet to be finalized.



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Meeting Registration Form
Palmbrook Country Club – Sun City, AZ
GM Speaker – Sam Russell, Director Buick Marketing
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

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

Or email a copy of the completed form to Larry Sessoms at Lrssms@aol.com

The following will be attending the Liberty Buick GMC Meeting at Palmbrook Country Club:

Member _____
 Spouse/Significant Other _____
 Guest _____
 Guest _____

If special dietary needs, please advise, and we will attempt to accommodate: _____

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 27, 2017

Any questions can be directed to Larry Sessoms (623-455-8616 H) or Ken Wechselberger (623-251-3684 H)

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.

Event Registration Form
Arizona Broadway Theatre
"South Pacific"
Thursday, December 14, 2017 – Matinee

Our Club's Christmas event this year will again be held at a five-star musical theatre featuring professional Broadway productions with restaurant style dining. Please join us for this classic Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway production 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. An outstanding three course meal will be served prior to the musical.

Directions:

The Arizona Broadway Theatre is located at 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria AZ. (623) 776-8400. Take the West 101 Loop to Bell Road and turn East. Travel on Bell Road to N. 77th Ave. and turn right (South). Take N. 77th Ave. and go across W. Paradise Lane (at the light) and the theater is ahead on the right.

Time:

11:45AM – 12:15PM Check-In Theatre Lobby (Bar Open)
 12:15AM – 1:15PM Lunch Is Served
 2:00PM Show Time

Menu:

Lunch will be individually selected from the Theatre Menu. You can preview the menu at www.azbroadway.org. Alcohol and desserts are extra and will be billed separately. Tips are not in the cost of the ticket and would be greatly appreciated. Alternate meals, such as gluten free and vegetarian, are available from the menu and can be ordered on that date.

Cost: **\$65.00** Per Member or Spouse/Sig. Other – Includes Musical Admission and a three course meal.
\$70.00 Per Guest



Event Registration Form
Arizona Broadway Theatre - "South Pacific"
Thursday, December 14, 2017 – Matinee

Please **return this portion** of the form with your payment to: **GM Alumni Club of Arizona**
P.O. Box 7414
Goodyear, AZ 85338

The following will be attending the Arizona Broadway Theatre Christmas Event:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Member _____ | Cost \$65.00 – Amount Included \$ _____ |
| Spouse/Significant Other _____ | Cost \$65.00 – Amount Included \$ _____ |
| Guest _____ | Cost \$70.00 – Amount Included \$ _____ |
| Guest _____ | Cost \$70.00 – Amount Included \$ _____ |
| Total Amount Included \$ _____ | |

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

ALL CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 20, 2017

Any questions can be directed to Larry Sessoms (623-455-8616 H) or Ken Wechselberger (623-251-3684 H)

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.