

#### THE CLUB REPORTER



**APRIL 2019** 

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#### EDITOR'S WELCOME



Hello Alumni!

It doesn't seem possible that the Program Year has already come to an end. And what a way to finish – with four great events enjoyed by many of our members during March and April! You will find summaries and pictures in this Newsletter of the comedy entertainment enjoyed at Rustler's Rooste, the GM Public Policy updates presented at Pebble Creek in March, and the camaraderie and competitions of the Picnic at Pebble Creek and the Golf

Scramble at GCU Golf Course in April.

As we take a break in our Club activities for the summer, be assured that your Club Officers and Board of Directors are working hard to present another outstanding series of programs and activities starting again in November. You will find the plans and details, as we know them to date for the 2019 – 2020 Program Year, beginning on page 12.

The new Program Year will start with a free Dealer-Sponsored luncheon meeting at Corte Bella Country Club on November 5, 2019, with a speaker on the hot topic of the proposed wall along the US – Mexico border. Put the confirmed dates on your calendars today, so you will not miss the exciting programs planned for next year.

Remember to check the Club's website at <a href="www.azgmalumni.com">www.azgmalumni.com</a> frequently to get the latest information on upcoming activities and meetings, as well as pictures from past meetings and events.

I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer wherever it may take you. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Corte Bella Country Club

sponsored by Liberty Buick GMC in November, when we will be starting another exciting Program Year.

Enjoy!

## Alan Steffe

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



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### 2019 <u>Board of Directors</u>

#### President

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Ken Wechselberger (817) 909 9656

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Alan Steffe (810) 513-3367

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Hal Hubbard (623) 256-8938

Jon Moss (586) 484-3731

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#### Club Photographers

Karen Schlax & Paul LeSage





How many salaried GM Alumni are living in Arizona? If you guessed about 3,000, you are in the ball park. We have two sources to consider for this estimate. GM Retiree Communications ran a query, yielding a count of about 3,000, but could not provide names and addresses in lieu of a corporate privacy policy. Recently, while meeting at Courtesy Chevrolet, they ran a quick tally and demonstrated that there are 3,000 GM Retirees (including both salary and hourly) using Facebook, with

AZ listed as their residence. Most recently our friends at Liberty Buick - Liberty GMC offered to share their skills and insight to help us launch a Facebook site for our Club. Inspired by the growth potential and the offer of very capable Liberty Buick GMC digital marketing professionals to assist us, we have launched the **Arizona GM Alumni Club** Facebook page. So, what's next?

- **I.** Establish administration procedures to monitor the site 24/7 on behalf of the Club. Facebook provides an immediate notification to our Club's email account (closely monitored by Al and I) of every post made on our page. The notice shows up simultaneously on our smartphones, which we monitor constantly unless we're behind the wheel of the car, in church, or participating in a meeting. As site administrators we can delete any post, any time. This reduces the risk of an inappropriate post blemishing our site.
- II. Promote our Club by posting meaningful information, photos, videos, and event announcements. In this way we're conveying the quality of our Club's membership, events, network, etc. Attractive photos are easy to share with the great collection our Club Photographers are providing. But photos alone are not enough. If you're on Facebook, you can help us establish a solid base. If you visit the Arizona GM Alumni Club Facebook page and "Like" it and choose to "Follow" updates, you will help us build our base of Facebook followers. For example, the Mesa General Motors Desert Proving Ground Alumni Facebook Group has 268 followers; the Delphi Salaried Retirees Facebook Group has 562; and the GMAC Memories Facebook Group has 2,200.
- III. Enhance our growth strategy through digital networking. Will this happen quickly? Probably not. But at its very essence, Facebook is built on connecting people with similar interests via a social network. Statistically, our peer group makes up the largest group of Facebook subscribers. Maybe you will suggest to other GM Alumni, who are thinking about joining us, to "Like" our Facebook Group, too. At the same time, we've created a plan that includes weekly posts that will be seen by all who "Like" and "Follow" our page, and monthly ads that will be distributed to the 3,000 GM Alumni who reside in AZ.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONT'D

**IV.** *Track our effectiveness and modify as needed.* Facebook provides weekly reports, so we can track which posts/ads are most effective, giving us the opportunity to improve as we go. These reports reveal a variety of statistics, e.g. how many views we had on each, and names of people who "Liked" us. Already the results are showing positive potential with four people unfamiliar to me "Liking" the **Arizona GM Alumni Club** Facebook page within the first week it was launched.

How likely is it that any of the 3,000 will join us? Hard to say. But it's a strategy we must employ to sustain the Club in the long-term. And for those four who expressed interest in our Club, we took quick action and sent along a personal greeting from the Club. Like anything else in life worth having, it will take time and calculated effort to accomplish. Truthfully, I love this Club. Our connection goes far beyond good times spent at the monthly meetings, or chats on the phone. I look forward to connecting with every one of you from year-to-year. And if I can have more friends like you, I'm excited about that.

If you aren't currently on Facebook and would like to give it a try, give me a call and we'll walk through it together. It's free and simple to use.

Have a great summer.

### Roxanne Steffe

2019 President 810.280.1399 any time

#### **NEW FACEBOOK SITE FOR OUR CLUB**



The Club has established a new Facebook Page as a communication tool to reach the 3000+ GM retirees residing in Arizona, while communicating with you, our members, as well. It is our hope to reach retirees who are unfamiliar with our group and get them to join us as we



"enjoy good times with friends, new and old, as we share our legacy with General Motors while experiencing the rich bounty of Arizona." Check out our Facebook page and "like us" at Arizona GM Alumni Club. If you are a Facebook user, we request that you make a positive post or recommendation on our Facebook site to encourage your GM friends to check us out.

#### MARCH 12TH MEETING SUMMARY

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 98 Club members and guests met at Rustler's Rooste to enjoy an exceptional cowboy dinner followed by many laughs, as Lynn Roberts presented his impersonation of the best of Bob Hope and a glimpse at Jack Benny. The following pictures highlight the meeting activities as captured by the Club's very capable photographers, Paul LeSage and Karen Schlax. More pictures can be found on the Club's website at <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190312\_meeting\_-rustlers\_rooste.pdf">https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190312\_meeting\_-rustlers\_rooste.pdf</a>.



#### FEBRUARY 50/50 WINNERS







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#### MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC POLICY MEETING SUMMARY

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Club was privileged to have GM's Public Policy Group from its Washington Offices host our Club and other GM retirees in the area. 106 members and guests were present to hear an update presented by Andy York, Executive Director of Federal Affairs, on how GM is working to meet its objectives of Zero Crashes, Zero Emissions, and Zero Congestion through implementation of electric and autonomous vehicles, while simultaneously working with the government to develop legislation and vehicle requirements that take these features into account. Many more photos can be found on the Club's website at <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190327\_gm\_public\_policy\_meeting.pdf">https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190327\_gm\_public\_policy\_meeting.pdf</a>.



#### APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> PICNIC SUMMARY

The April 2<sup>nd</sup> Picnic was an outstanding success as confirmed by the 45 members in attendance, who enjoyed the music provided by "Forever Young," the barbeque lunch provided by Dillons, the ice cream desserts provided by Mr. Softee, and the friendly competition of the Bocce tournament. Representatives from our Loyal Dealer, Sands Chevrolet, also joined us with the newest Chevrolet vehicles available for viewing. The following highlights the "fun had by all" as captured by the Club's photographers, Paul LeSage and Karen Schlax. Many more pictures are available at <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190402 meeting-picnic.pdf">https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190402 meeting-picnic.pdf</a>.



#### **APRIL PICNIC 50/50 WINNERS**





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#### APRIL 16TH GOLF SCRAMBLE SUMMARY

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 33 golfers took to the Grand Canyon University Golf Course on a beautiful Arizona morning for golf. Nine teams played a scramble format over a challenging par 71 course containing many large sand traps, while enjoying the camaraderie of good friends. Following the round and lunch, prizes were awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams and the winners of the longest drive and closest to the pin contests. The competition was very close, with everyone having a good time and looking forward to next year's outing with hopes of lowering their scores. A special "Thank You" goes out to our loyal dealers – Arrowhead Cadillac, Coulter Cadillac Buick GMC Tempe, Liberty Buick GMC, & Sands Chevrolet – along with the GM Western Region for providing prizes and gift items for all. The pictures below capture the events of the day, with many more that can be found on the Club website at https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/20190416 golf scramble.pdf.



#### MEET CLUB MEMBERS - JIM & LORAINE MOTTERN

#### Say Hello to Jim & Loraine Mottern!



Jim was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He enjoyed his summers at Buckeye Lake where his uncle owned a drugstore. Jim and his wife, Loraine, met in kindergarten. They used to walk to

school together! During high school, Jim was an accomplished athlete consistently lettering four years in a row in football, basketball and baseball graduating in 1956 from North College Hill High School.

After high school Jim attended Purdue University where he studied Industrial Economics and graduated in 1960. Jim's college years found him active in his fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha and doing volunteer work in the Office of Student Services.



After graduating from Purdue, Jim joined the Buick Motor Division of General Motors. In 1961, Jim found himself in the Air Force having

received a Critical Skills Deferment because of Buick's status as a supplier to the U.S. Government in the Korean War. He did his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, finishing as an Airman and was immediately assigned to the inactive reserves.

From 1960 through 1967, Jim worked at the Buick Engine Plant in supervision. He was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in 1968. Jim had assignments in the foundry, final assembly plants, reliability and transmission plant.

In 1970, Jim was sponsored by Buick to enroll in the Advanced Management Program at Michigan State University in the Eli Broad College of Business Executive MBA Program, graduating in 1972 with a degree in finance. The years between 1980 and 1984 found Jim back in the engine plant as Program Administrator for the 1985 GM20 3.0 MFI and the 1986 GM30 3800 MFI engine programs. During these years his most memorable work assignments were spent as a member of a corporate program management team visiting the Mesa proving grounds for prototype and pilot programs.

Jim's last assignments from 1987 through 2000 were with BOC Engine Division, GM Global Powertrain Engineering in Brighton and Pontiac. Jim's role covered the Business Management of Product Programs, four phase process, design for manufacturability, program readiness, chair of a global program management powertrain team and member of various corporate teams representing powertrain engineering. During this time, Jim spent most of his time in what he calls the Bermuda Triangle (Flint, Lansing and Detroit). His travels also took him to Germany and Brazil as the chair of a team to commonize business and program practices across all powertrain brands around the world.

Jim is an avid golfer, member of the Masons, and skier. From 1979 through 1990 Jim was an Associate Tournament Director for the Buick Open.



Jim, Loraine, & Ben Crenshaw
At the Buick Open
(Continue)

(Continued on page 9)

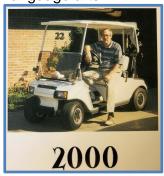
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#### MEET CLUB MEMBERS - JIM & LORAINE MOTTERN (CONTINUED)

He has been the treasurer for his local Masonic Lodge and a member of the National Ski Patrol for over 35 years. Jim started with the Ski Patrol at Mt. Holly in southeast Michigan and ended at Schuss Mountain in northwest Michigan. His Ski Patrol training came in handy at work one day in 1997 when he saved an employee's life who was experiencing cardiac arrest. Jim's training kickedin, he performed CPR and had the employee breathing when the first responders arrived. Jim received the GM Chairman's Life Saving Award, a plaque and an engraved watch to commemorate his heroism.

Loraine was also born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a child, Loraine remembers loving to ride her pony. She was always active from playing softball, volleyball and basketball to cheerleading through high school. Loraine, like Jim, was also involved in voluntary school activities and served as the editor of the high school yearbook.

After high school Loraine attended the University of Cincinnati receiving a degree in education. She worked in the Flint School System for eight years as a fourth grade teacher in reading and language arts.



Jim retired in 2000, forty years after he was hired by General Motors. The Motterns eventually relocated to northern Michigan on Grand Traverse Bay in Eastport. Jim and Loraine have one son. also named Jim.

Grandchildren, Andrew age eleven and Kaitlyn age seven, live in nearby Gilbert. Being close to family was a strong determinant in Jim and Loraine's decision to move to the Valley of the Sun in 2016.

To this day, Jim continues to volunteer with organizations, it's in his DNA. He's currently part of the Arizona Fire & Medical Authority Fire Corps in Sun Lakes, a member of the Advisory Board, and is on the "Crisis Response Team," which responds with the Fire and Medical personnel to 911 calls. The response team assists and cares for family members while the medical personnel care for the ill or injured.

When you see Jim and Loraine at our GM Alumni Club events, stop and say "Hello".



Jim & Loraine with their 'Adventure Mobile.' **Happy Adventuring!** 



Bob Adkins, Sub-Director for Membership Development Activities, continues to produce outstanding interviews of our members in the hope that these will give everyone a better insight into the makeup of our Club. I'm sure you will enjoy this information and note the depth and breadth of experiences our members have. Here you have read Bob's interview conducted with the Club's members **Jim & Loraine Mottern.** Use this introduction as background as you interact with Jim & Loraine at future meetings and get to know them better.

#### LOYAL DEALER - COULTER CADILLAC TEMPE - TO THE RESCUE



It's been said that "you really find out who you can count-on when you're facing an unexpected difficulty".

That was the situation last December for Brad McClellan, a civil engineer, and son of Club member – Pat Stoner – when he and his wife, Gig, a retired teacher, experienced a sudden life-threatening health scare while flying home from a vacation in Washington, D.C.



Brad & Gig McClellan

On the day of their departure from D.C., Gig was experiencing a painful headache, the worse she'd ever had. Anxious to get home and back with family, they boarded the plane believing it would pass before they arrived back home in Phoenix. Yet, the headache grew worse and now the jet was enroute.

The situation grew even more uncertain and potentially dangerous when Gig began slurring her words and was unable to lift her right arm. The flight attendants quickly identified health professionals on the flight with a nurse practitioner and two physicians quickly making their skills available. Gig received oxygen, but no improvement was evident. Brad suggested it could be her blood sugar, but it was tested and was fine.

Gig soon became unresponsive and now it was critical for the pilots to immediately get the plane on the ground. Within a half hour Brad and Gig were in Oklahoma. Brad says, "it was the longest half hour of his life". The airlines had called ahead and the fire department came on-board with a gurney that was small enough to fit in the aisle. Soon they were on

their way to the hospital, dealing with fear and many unknowns.

For the next week, Gig would undergo many tests for a subdural hematoma and eventually brain surgery. The first three days were spent in intensive care and then a private room with round-the-clock nursing care. Hundreds of miles away from family and friends, taking care of Gig's health was Brad's primary focus. Nothing else was of consequence, but then Brad thought about their Cadillac sitting in long-term parking at Sky Harbor Airport. Not really knowing how long they would be in Oklahoma, Brad felt he needed to have their son retrieve the car and take it home. As you can imagine, Brad and Gig's family were on-edge with so many unknowns. But their son and daughter were ready to help in anyway needed.

Soon after arriving at long-term parking and locating his parent's Cadillac, Brad's son tried the remote control to enter the car, but it would not unlock the door. Desperately wanting to help his parents, he diligently tried it several times with no change. Brad, a loyal customer of Coulter Cadillac Tempe for 20 years, was always impressed with their first-class service, and now he had a special need. Fortunately he had the cell number of Jeff Robinson, Coulter Cadillac Tempe Roadside Assistance. Jeff



had helped Brad out a couple of times over the years and always resolved the problem without delay.

John Spindt, GM Alumni Concierge & Jeff Robinson

As expected, Jeff was at Sky Harbor immediately with a new battery for the failed remote control. The car was retrieved and now safe in the possession of their son. With Jeff's trusted help, especially with his wife's

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#### LOYAL DEALER - COULTER CADILLAC TEMPE - TO THE RESCUE (CONT'D)

health weighing heavy on his mind, Brad was extremely thankful to Coulter Cadillac Tempe. Their quick attention fostered an even deeper affinity for his Cadillac and Coulter Tempe. Jeff Robinson says, "You own a Cadillac, and I am grateful for that."

After about a week, Gig and Brad were once again on their way home to Phoenix. Gig is now fully recovered after extensive therapy. And John Spindt, General Sales Manager of Coulter Cadillac Tempe, is happy to have an employee the caliber of Jeff Robinson. John says, "It is difficult to find employees

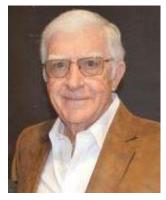
like Jeff. We appreciate what he does for Coulter Tempe and our family of Cadillac owners."

Coulter Cadillac Tempe and Coulter Buick GMC Tempe are loyal dealers for members of the GM Alumni Club of AZ, providing red carpet service and so much more. To learn more about what this means, check out our website <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/partners.html">https://www.azgmalumni.com/partners.html</a>. Better yet, be sure to stop by and say hello to John Spindt and Jeff Robinson the next time you're at Coulter Cadillac Tempe.



As we continue to feature information for you to get to better know our Loyal Dealers, this month we featured **Coulter Cadillac – Tempe** and their exceptional customer satisfaction performance.

#### OBITUARY FOR LYLE ANTIEAU (10/12/1937 - 3/31/2019)



Lyle Antieau, a long time member of the Club, passed away on March 31<sup>st</sup> following his battle with lung cancer. Lyle retired as the Director of Human Resources from Oldsmobile in January, 1999, following a 40-year career with General Motors. At his request, he has been cremated with a memorial service planned at a later date. As we gain more information, we will pass it along at that time.

As his wife, Marge Camelet-Antieau stated, "You will be notified and anyone from his beloved GM days who would like to join us is welcome. I believe that if there is truly a gathering place where people reunite after death... then rest assured that Lyle is having a wonderful time, and his wit is keeping everyone laughing."

#### 2019 - 2020 PROGRAM YEAR CALENDAR

The Club has put together an outstanding series of meetings and topics for the new 2019 – 2020 Program Year that will start in November. Below are the dates and programs planned with the details as they have been defined to date. Some of the events are still being planned, and details will be placed on the Club Website – <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/calendar">www.azgmalumni.com/calendar</a> – and in future Newsletters once further details have been defined. Check the website regularly for the latest updates.

## Tuesday November 5, 2019

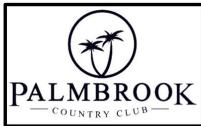
Dealer-Sponsored by Liberty Buick GMC at Palmbrook Country Club

Dennis Wagner,
Investigative
Reporter of The
Arizona Republic,
"2000-mile Journey
in the Shadow of
the Wall"

The Club's new 2019 – 2020 Program Year will start with a free Dealer-Sponsored event at Palmbrook Country Club on **November 5, 2019**. **Liberty Buick GMC** will be the sponsor for this event, and the speaker will be Dennis Wagner, Investigative Reporter for The Arizona Republic and the USA Today News Network.

Dennis Wagner's topic will be "A 2000-mile Journey in the Shadow of the Wall." His topic will review the Pulitzer Prize articles that appeared recently in The Arizona Republic and the USA Today, regarding the proposed wall along the US-Mexico border. With this being a timely topic of current interest, you will not want to miss this presentation.

Save the date on your calendar now, and look forward to a very informative presentation in November with an opportunity to get questions answered that you might have. More details will be provided as the registration form is finalized and posted on the Club's website later this summer.







# Thursday December 5, 2019

## Arizona Broadway Theatre



# FIRIZOTH BROHDWAY THEATRE

Our Club's Christmas event this year will again be held at the Arizona Broadway Theatre – a five star musical theatre featuring professional Broadway productions with restaurant style dining. Plan to join us for this year's production of *Elf The Musical*.

Based on the 2003 film starring Will Ferrell, *Elf The Musical* is the hilarious tale of Buddy, who, as a baby, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. When his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find *The World's Greatest Dad* and discover his true identity. Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember *There Is a Santa Claus*. This modern-day holiday classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf!

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#### 2019 - 2020 PROGRAM YEAR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

Wednesday
January 15, 2020

East Valley
Institute of
Technology
Culinary Arts

Sarah Porter, ASU Kyle Center on Colorado Water Usage Controls On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, the Club will meet at the East Valley Institute of Technology for lunch and another presentation on a topic of great interest to Arizona. Sarah Porter of the ASU Kyl Center for Water Policy will

be sharing information on the topic of "Water Resiliency for the Future – Challenges Faced by Arizona and the West."

Sarah Porter, is the Director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy, a nonpartisan water think tank named after U.S. Senator Jon Kyl, a universally respected water expert and leader. It promotes research, analysis, collaboration and open dialogue to identify opportunities for consensus to ensure sound water stewardship for Arizona and the Western region. You will definitely want to hear and get your questions answered about what the future holds for water resources in Arizona.



Sarah Porter, Director ASU Kyl Center for Water Policy

February xx, 2020

Dealer-Sponsored by Courtesy Chevrolet

**GM Speaker TBD** 

Our Loyal Dealer, Courtesy Chevrolet, will be presenting a free luncheon meeting for our Club in February, 2020, with the exact date yet to be determined. Courtesy has been a strong supporter of our Club over the years. A General Motors speaker, yet to be determined, will be

presenting information about the future Chevrolet products. Look forward to joining us in February for this informative meeting. Check the Club's website for more details and the exact date of the meeting.



Special Tues. – Wed. Overnight February 18-19, 2020

Yuma Tours – Field to Feast, Territorial Prison, & Martha's Date Farm The special overnight tour to Yuma required a very early advanced registration of April 15<sup>th</sup> since these tours are limited and very popular. The maximum capacity for the tour is 52, and currently 47 people have signed up for this event to insure that it will occur. If there are still others interested in this tour, send in an advanced registration, and we will establish a waiting list if necessary. A final commitment to the Field of Feast is due in June, so get your registration in now.

All participants will caravan from Phoenix to Yuma for the overnight stay at the Best Western Yuma Mall Hotel & Suites and enjoy tours of the Territorial Prison, ASU's Field to Feast, and Martha's Date Farm. More details will be available this summer to those who have registered for this event.

#### 2019 - 2020 PROGRAM YEAR CALENDAR (CONT'D)

March xx, 2020

*buy'* on Amazon.com, when we tour one of the Amazon Fulfillment Centers in Phoenix.

You will see first-hand how Amazon delivers product to

Tour of the their customers... from receipt of product from the manufacturers, to how the products are stored, selected for packaging, and packaged for shipment, along with the quality assurance processes along the way.



April xx, 2020

Details are currently being worked out for a tour of the Desert Botanical Garden in April, 2020, when all the native plants will be in bloom.

Come and witness the magic that happens after you click

Desert Botanical Garden Tour

Come enjoy the beauty of the desert as you explore 50,000+ plant displays showcased in beautiful outdoor exhibits throughout the 55 acres under cultivation.



April xx, 2020

Annual Golf Scramble

The popular Golf Scramble will again be held in April, 2020, before our activities take a break for the summer months. This is always a good time for some friendly competition and stories about the shot "that almost went in," or the long put that "really did go in." When you combine the camaraderie with the beautiful Arizona sunshine and being on the golf course, it is always a good time. Plan to join in the fun next year as we continue to grow the event.



