

THE CLUB REPORTER

MARCH 2021



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * Arizona Broadway Theatre Event a Great Success
- * "Member Updates" Becomes a New Feature
- * Get to Know Ron & Sherri Terry
- * Special Offers Available from Liberty Buick and Liberty GMC
- * Join the Club for the Golf Outing to Close Out the Year

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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Hello Alumni!

As we approach the month of April, we note that the Club has only two events remaining for this Program Year – the Dolly Steamboat Dinner Cruise on Canyon Lake on April 7th which is closed to reservations and the April 14th Golf Scramble with a reservation deadline of April 1st. As disruptive as the year was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club is very happy to have been able to provide Club events each month with the exception of January. Each month has seen an increase in

participation for the events.

We recently held our March event at the Arizona Broadway Theater with 43 members and guests enjoying a delicious meal and 90-plus minutes of high level music and dance to the music of George and Ira Gershwin as shown on pages 4 and 5.

Although the April 7th Private Dolly Dinner Cruise is sold out, the April 14th Golf Scramble still has openings with an April 1st deadline for registration. More information about the Golf Scramble is found on page 3 and a registration form on page 8.

The Club's Board is currently planning the Club events for the 2021 – 2022 Program Year, and will be communicating those plans in the next newsletter and on the Club's website for your planning. Remember that your Board is always open to ideas you might forward regarding new events, activities, or speakers.

In this edition of the Club's monthly Newsletter, you will find the first of a new section I am planning to make available in all future Newsletters. It is a section titled "Member Updates", in which you will find updates on the membership. It will include special news regarding current or past Club members – deaths, relocations, etc. To make this meaningful, I will be relying on input from you, the members, as these significant changes or events occur among us. As this information becomes available, please pass it along to me at alansteffe@yahoo.com for communication in future newsletters. Current changes I have learned can be found on page 3.

Enjoy the attached news, and I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting!

Enjoy!

Alan Steffe

Editor & Publisher
The Club Reporter
alansteffe@yahoo.com

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(623) 313-0133

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Lowell Ulrich
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(906) 203-9941

Hal Hubbard
(Registration)
(623) 256-8938

Ron Terry
(248) 904-8797

Welcome Team

Rosemary Kovacevic
Delrene Buterakos

Club Photographer

Karen Schlax



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings GM Alumni,

We are three months into the 2021 calendar year, and the weather in Arizona is just about perfect. It's this time of year that we say, "This is why we live here!" The state continues to make great progress on the vaccination of Arizonians and soon we will be all be ready to get on with the next phase of our lives.

On March 11th, the Club had a great turnout at the Arizona Broadway Theatre to experience "Crazy for Gershwin." It was fantastic to see our alumni out for this event to interact with other members and witness such an enjoyable show. Thank you to all who attended!

Still to come are two awesome April events: The Dolly Steamboat Dinner Cruise on Canyon Lake, and our traditional final event of the year – the Golf Outing at Pebble Creek's Eagle's Nest Golf Course in Goodyear. You will find information in this newsletter to still sign up for the Golf Outing; however, registration for the Dolly Steamboat Dinner Cruise has been closed due to early commitments required by the cruise operators. To date we have 60-plus people coming to the Dolly Steamboat to enjoy a wonderful dinner and cruise around the lake, hopefully closing with another spectacular Arizona sunset.

Our board met in March to set its sights on next year's activities. Stay up to date by reading our future newsletters and visiting the Club's website – www.azgmalumni.com – to keep informed on the many great events that are being planned for the 2021-2022 season.

Enjoy the AZ spring everyone. Hope to see you all at our upcoming gatherings.

Continue to Mask-Up AZ! Stay Safe!

Pete Langenhorst

2021 President
prlangenhorst@me.com

LOYAL DEALER UPDATE

The Club thanks our loyal dealers – **Liberty Buick** and **Liberty GMC** – for providing bus service for the Club's Dinner Cruise in April!

Contact **Ken Muecke**, GM Alumni Concierge for special Buick deals available to GM Alumni Club Members at:

623-451-4494 or
kmuecke@libertybuick.com

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ALL NEW 2021 BUICK ENVISION

2020 - 2021 PROGRAM YEAR CALENDAR

April 14, 2021

Golf Team Scramble
April 14, 2021

PebbleCreek
Eagle's Nest Golf Course
3645 Clubhouse Dr, Goodyear, AZ 85395
7:30 am Registration – Tee Times starting at 8:00 am
With Luncheon & Awards to follow

Individual Contests
• LONGEST DRIVE
• CLOSEST TO THE PIN
• LONGEST PUTT
• TEAM LOW GROSS AND NET

Cost: \$75.00 Members
\$80.00 Guests

Registrations Due by April 1, 2021

The 2020-2021 Program Year will conclude with the Club's annual golf scramble. It will return this year to the Eagle's Nest Golf Course at PebbleCreek in Goodyear. This course was completely reworked last year and includes all new greens, sand traps, and fairways. It's in great shape with *FAST* greens. Tee times will start at 8:00 am, since COVID protocols do not allow a shotgun start this year. Fees include 18 holes of golf, cart, and practice ball tokens, along with lunch, refreshments, awards, and a goody bag. Team and individual prizes will be awarded.

The event is open to men and women, low handicappers and higher handicappers. Form your own foursome, or sign up as an individual to be placed on a team. The scramble format gives everyone a chance to participate and enjoy a beautiful spring day on the golf course with friends.

A Registration Form can be found on page 7, with a due date of **April 1, 2021**.

MEMBER UPDATES



Over recent months, I have been updated with information about several Club members, and have come to the realization that this might prompt a new section in the monthly newsletters going forward. Namely, it would be "Member Updates" when we learn of a member or spouse who has passed away or moved from the area. To make this a meaningful addition to the Newsletter, I would rely on you, as Club members, to help keep me, as the Newsletter Editor, informed when a significant change has occurred with a fellow member. You can do this by emailing me with any updates at alansteffe@yahoo.com. I appreciate your input, as will those other members who will be kept up-to-date regarding fellow members we have come to know and enjoy over the years.

Several updates received this month include...

- Long-time member, **Ben Snyder**, passed away in January, 2021, a month shy of his 98th birthday. Ben retired from Rochester Products as General Manager in 1983. He has been a loyal member of the Club for many years, a regular attendee, and will be greatly missed. The Club's condolences go out to his family.
- Long-time member, **Dale Morse**, will be relocating to Denver at the end of this month to be near family. Dale lost his wife, Joanne, in July, 2020 and will be moving back closer to family. Dale retired from GMC Truck Division in 1991 after many years in the sales and marketing arena. He was a regular Club attendee and will be missed by many.

MARCH 11, 2021 - ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE

On Thursday, March 11th, a group of 43 Club members and guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner and 90+ continuous minutes of fast paced music and dance to famous and not so famous tunes from George and Ira Gershwin at the Arizona Broadway Theatre. More photos can be found at [PowerPoint Presentation \(azgmalumni.com\)](https://www.azgmalumni.com).



"We had a lovely dinner and time to visit before we were ushered into the theater for the performance. Four extremely talented performers entertained us for 90 minutes of singing and tap dancing to the familiar songs of George and Ira Gershwin - *Rhapsody in Blue*, *Foggy Day*, *Let's call The Whole Thing Off*, which we were glad they didn't because we *Couldn't Have Asked For Anything More*. It was another great event with our GM Alumni members."

Jim & Sue Smeets

Photos Compliments of Alan Steffe



"We were very happy to be back at the Arizona Broadway Theatre for an enjoyable meal and excellent performance. The enthusiastic "Gershwin" performers brought back memories of Patt's dancing and teaching days. We want to thank everyone involved in planning the Club events. We appreciate all your efforts".

Jim & Patt Sayer

(Continued on page 5)

MARCH 11, 2021 - ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATRE (CONT'D)



More photos can be found at: [PowerPoint Presentation \(azgmalumni.com\)](http://PowerPoint Presentation (azgmalumni.com))

MEET CLUB MEMBERS – RON & SHERRI TERRY

This month we continue to get to know our Club members better by featuring **Ron and Sherri Terry**. Ron has recently joined the Board of Directors as a Sub-Director, and the Club welcomes him on-board with his fresh ideas and broad experiences.



Ron was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1956 as the youngest of two boys in the family. During his younger years, his family did a lot of camping and traveling. One of those trips was a

trip out west in 1966, which prompted the family to eventually decide to move to Arizona. When Ron was in the 8th grade, the family packed up and moved west. With the move to Phoenix, Ron then attended and graduated from Cortez High School in 1974, where he had the honor of becoming a member of the National Honor Society. A favorite pastime and hobby during these years was flying model airplanes with friends, when not busy at school, working on his paper route, or working at Jack in the Box.

Looking ahead toward his college days, Ron submitted his application to General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) with the hope of being sponsored by one of GM's California assembly plants. With 1974 being a tough year for new sponsorships, his interviews with the Southgate and Fremont facilities were unsuccessful. Fortunately, prior to his High School graduation during a vacation back to Ohio, Ron was able to get an interview with the student coordinator at Packard Electric. Within a month he received a sponsorship from Packard Electric, and his dad was driving him back to Flint to begin the cooperative college life at GMI.

While pursuing a Mechanical Engineering Degree at GMI, Ron was active in the Sigma Nu fraternity and car club. During his fourth year, he had a project assignment of turbocharging a Pontiac Firebird which was presented to Pontiac and went into production in 1979.

Upon graduation from GMI with a BME in Automotive

Engineering in 1979, Ron started at Packard Electric in Ohio as a validation test engineer for EMC (electromagnetic compatibility) of the upcoming airbag and engine control computer systems. He later moved into an application engineer assignment, which resulted in the family's move to Flint, Michigan in 1986 to be part of a new initiative to locate suppliers at the car divisions.

While in Ohio, Ron met a young lady, Sherri Kiefer, at a wedding each happened to be attending. Their relationship grew to the point of being married in April 1985. An interesting discovery was that Sherri had been born in the same Youngstown, Ohio hospital by the same doctor as was Ron, only three years later. Sherri grew up in the Youngstown area and attended Austintown Fitch High School. During her senior year, she was in the COE program (Cooperative Office Education), where she went to school half a day and worked as a secretary the other half. Sherri then had the opportunity to work at many different offices and take off time when their son, Brandon, was born in December of 1992. Brandon lives with Ron and Sherri and works at Home Depot. The cooperative education programs were very good to both Ron and Sherri.



A clone of Sherri's first car, a 1977 Firethorn Red Oldsmobile Cutlass, observed at the GM Heritage Center

In 1990, Ron transferred from Packard Electric to the BOC Flint Group and worked in the Electrical Software and Systems Group. This began Ron's exposure to many different vehicle electronic systems - navigation,

(Continued on page 7)

MEET CLUB MEMBERS – RON & SHERRI TERRY (CONT'D)

remote keyless entry, body computers, and HVAC systems. In 1988, he led the launch of the OnStar Gen 3 system into the factory (rather than being a dealer installed option) for both car and truck groups. Ron was also a member of the team that created and launched the OnStar Turn by Turn Navigation System. In 2008, that team was selected to receive one of the annual GM President's Awards - recognition of the best of the best ideas and projects from around the corporation. Ron was honored to participate in the recognition ceremony at the GM Heritage Center where the awards were presented by Rick Wagoner.



These assignments led to him leading the group responsible for developing the OnStar hardware globally. New innovations developed during this time included the introduction of Bluetooth (Gen 8 MY09), OnStar China (MY10), and 4G LTE wi-fi connectivity (Gen 10 MY15). Before his retirement in 2017, Ron also worked on development of a connectivity system for autonomous vehicles, preparing for the future. It was during this assignment in February 2017 that Ron and Sherri moved to Arizona, where Ron worked out of the GM Phoenix software group office before

retiring later that year in September.

They are now enjoying their hobbies and retirement. Ron enjoys woodworking, radio-controlled cars, and tinkering (i.e., trying to fix almost anything electrical!), while Sherri enjoys reading, shopping with friends and vacationing when she can. Both are very much into classic cars, and are members of the Sonoran Desert Chapter of the Cadillac & LaSalle Club. In fact, it was



Ron & Sherri as dignitary drivers in a 1967 Cadillac Deville in the 2017 Glendale Christmas Parade

through this car club being hosted by Arrowhead Cadillac at the same time Arrowhead was hosting a GM Alumni Club Meeting in February 2019 that the Terrys learned of the GM Alumni Club and became members.

In addition to their hobbies, both volunteer regularly for the Duet Partners in Health and Aging in Phoenix - a non-profit, interfaith organization that promotes health and well-being through a broad range of services to homebound adults, caregivers, faith communities, and grandparents raising children.

They joined the GM Alumni Club in 2019, and we are very happy to have them in our midst. Look forward to getting to know them better at a future Club event.

The Club thanks our loyal dealers – Liberty Buick and Liberty GMC – for providing bus service for the Club's Dinner Cruise in April!

Contact **Lydia Falcon**, GM Alumni Concierge for special GMC deals available to GM Alumni Club Members at:

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Special Event Golf Outing

Golf Fee of \$75.00 per Member (\$80.00 per Guest) Includes Golf, Cart, Lunch, & Prizes

- ✓ 18 Holes of Golf
- ✓ 8:00 AM Starting Tee Time
- ✓ Scramble Format (Min 3 drives each)
- ✓ All Levels with Handicaps

Please ADVISE if you are forming a foursome. Otherwise, we will attempt to form teams of equal skill based on handicaps submitted below.

GOLF

April 14,
2021

PebbleCreek/Eagle's Nest Golf Club 3645 W. Clubhouse Dr. Goodyear, AZ 85395
[Course completely redone last year!] (623) 935-6761

✓ Check-in Begins at 7:30 AM at the Check-in Table. Standard COVID Protocols in place. ✓

Cut Here

Eagle's Nest Golf Club at PebbleCreek

	<u>GHIN Index</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Name _____	_____	\$ _____
Name _____	_____	\$ _____
Name _____	_____	\$ _____
Name _____	_____	\$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____		

Memo: PebbleCreek Homeowners will pay their own golf and only pay \$35.00 toward lunch and prizes.

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

Send checks and this completed registration form to:

Ken Wechselberger at 16002 W. Edgemont Avenue, Goodyear, AZ 85395

All checks must be received no later than April 1, 2021

