



## THE CLUB REPORTER

APRIL 2023

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \* Club closes out the Program Year at Chef Peter's Bistro with AZ Game & Fish Rep.
- \* 2023-2024 Program Year Schedule finalized with Cut-Out available for posting
- Anticipation building toward 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Martin Auto Musem
- \* Meet the Liberty Buick and GMC Club Concierges



#### EDITOR'S WELCOME



#### Hello Alumni!

Here we are at the end of another very engaging and entertaining year. The Club's meetings took us to various sites in the Valley from Gilbert to Mesa, to Phoenix, to Peoria, and to Surprise. The meetings ranged from a dealer-sponsored luncheon with GM speakers, to an outstanding Broadway Musical production, to two exceptional museums, and very informative speakers on topics of great interest – water issues and availability and desert animals and their characteristics.

We finished our year with Nancy Kreuder from the Arizona Game and Fish Department educating us on the characteristics and habits of the common desert insects and animals we encounter here in Arizona. A summary and pictures from this April event can be found on pages 3 and 4.

The Board has been very active in planning a full program of activities for the upcoming 2023-2024 Program Year and has finalized the schedule for the year. This schedule can be found on page 5 in a format that can be cut out and posted on your bulletin board or refrigerator door. Use this to also post the meeting dates on your calendar to enjoy socializing and great entertainment with fellow Club members.

In addition to this listing of events, page 6 shows how our gatherings continue to be placed around the valley. This helps accommodate our members who reside throughout the valley. In addition, you will note this page lists several venues being considered for future meetings thanks to tips from Club members. Remember that the Board is always open to new ideas and venues that would be of interest to the rest of our Club members. Just pass your ideas along to any Board member. Board member contact information is listed on page 2.

With the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for our Club, you will find an article on the Martin Auto Museum and Event Center that has been selected as the location for this event on pages 7 and 8. This venue is sure to surprise you!

In the Ambassadors' Corner on pages 11 through 13, you will find a new feature of "Getting to know our Dealer Concierges." In this edition, you will find brief biographies of the Liberty Buick and Liberty GMC concierges, while noting that a new concierge has been identified at Liberty Buick.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and have a great summer. Watch for more information on upcoming events in our fall newsletter or check our the Club's website for updates as they become available.

Enjoy your summer!

Alan Steffe



Editor & Publisher The Club Reporter alansteffe@yahoo.com

#### THE CLUB REPORTER

#### Page 2

## 2023 <u>Board of Directors</u>

**President** Jim Hall (810) 869-8944

## Vice-President

Roxanne Steffe (810) 280-1399

## Secretary/Treasurer

Ron Terry (248) 904-8797

#### Directors

Alan Steffe (810) 513-3367

Sub-Directors Hal Hubbard (Registration) (623) 256-8938

Welcome Team Rosemary Kovacevic Delrene Buterakos

Club Photographers Alan & Roxanne Steffe



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### Welcome!

How quickly our Club's Spring Season has ended. Our final event last week focused on the "Great Outdoors". It featured an outstanding presentation by Nancy Kreuder, Wildlife Education Coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She included a few "live performers" that joined our group after lunch at Chef Peter's Bistro in Surprise.

Planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club is off to a great start. The Martin Auto Museum has graciously welcomed us to their recently opened new Museum and Event Center. Our Team has been working hard to provide a very memorable event for all who attend.

For out-of-town Members who might plan to attend our event on March 12, 2024, the Martin Museum has a discounted rate negotiated at a local hotel near their Museum. If you are interested in more information about this, contact me or Roxanne Steffe, and we will give you the details

I hope you have signed-up to renew your GM Retiree information on the Corporate website in response to the Corporate emailing in mid-March. Your registration is important to insure that you continue receiving any Corporate Retiree communications. The cutoff date is May 12, 2023. This will offer you a way to continue to receive updates from the Corporation as well as other events such as Ride and Drives. They will only send you what is relevant to you and your location. Our Club has had a great relationship with them in the past, and want to continue that as strong and positive representatives of General Motors.

We have had a very successful year thanks to our Board of Directors and Sub-Directors. We also cannot forget the two wonderful and pleasant ladies who have welcomed our members and guests over the years. Delrene Buterakos and Rosemary Kovacevic have worked the Reception Desk and truly made our members and guests feel welcome. Our sincere thanks to Delrene and Rosemary!

In closing, have a SAFE and enjoyable Summer! We look forward to another great year next year, including a Memorable 50th Anniversary. See you then!

Jim Hall

2023 - 2024 President hjskhall@gmail.com



#### APRIL 13, 2023 - CHEF PETER'S BISTRO - ARIZONA GAME & FISH TOPIC

The April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting brought the Club together at a new venue – Chef Peter's Bistro in Surprise. The relaxed setting made socializing easy. Following an outstanding meal and great service, Nancy Kreuder, the Wildlife Education Outreach Coordinator from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, gave a very informative explanation of the Wildlife Creatures that are a part of our daily Arizona life, whether at home, in our neighborhood, or hiking the trails. She provided explanations of how to treat encounters with a variety of the native animals and insects, while showing off several live examples. The pictures below highlight some of the day's activity, while more can be found on the Club's website at <u>PowerPoint Presentation (azgmalumni.com)</u>.





















#### THE CLUB REPORTER

## APRIL 13, 2023 - CHEF PETER'S BISTRO - ARIZONA GAME & FISH (CONT'D)







[Photo Contributor: Ward Atkinson]

More photos can be found at PowerPoint Presentation (azgmalumni.com)

## APRIL 50/50 WINNERS







Ron Terry - \$30.00

#### LOOKING FORWARD

As we will now enjoy our summer and look ahead to next year, the Board has already prepared its schedule of planned events for the coming 2023– 2024 Program Year and the beginning of the 2024–2025 Program Year.

These events are listed on the right side of this sheet so you can easily *cut it out and post it on your bulletin board or place it with a magnet on the front of your refrigerator.* 

At the same time, you will want to **put these event dates on your calendar** so you will not miss any events in the coming year.

Remember that 2024 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club's founding, and the Board is planning a memorable celebration event for <u>March 12, 2024</u> for all its members, with an agenda far more than one of our typical monthly meetings

Please Notice This

The Board works to finalize the details and costs for each event through this inflationary environment our country is currently facing.

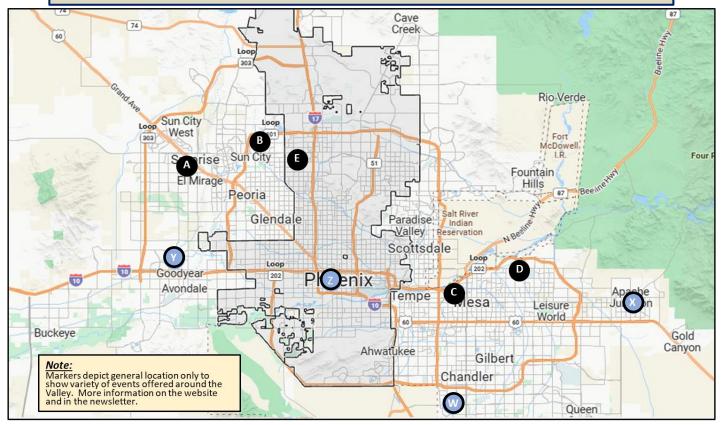
As event details and costs are finalized, they will be made available through the Club website <u>GM Alumni</u> <u>Club of Arizona - Home (azgmalumni.com)</u> and future Newsletters.



If you have any questions, or a venue, topic, or speaker you would like the Board to contact, contact any Board member.

#### 2023-2024 PROGRAM AND CALENDAR YEAR EVENTS

# "We get around the Valley." Meetings Around the Valley in 2023-2024



## **Planned Events:**

- A. "Identity Theft & Scams" Chef Peter's Bistro, Surprise
- B. AZ Broadway Theatre Peoria
- C. Teddy Roosevelt Portrayal EVIT, Mesa
- D. Falcon Field Museum & Tour Mesa
- E. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Martin Auto Museum, Glendale
- A. "Elder Abuse" EVIT, Mesa
- B. AZ Broadway Theatre Peoria

## **Events Under Consideration:**

- W. Basha's Gallery Chandler
- X. Barleen's AZ Opry Apache Junction
- Y. Estrella Comm. College Culinary Arts Avondale
- Z. State Capitol Tour Phoenix.
- "Internet Safety" Venue TBD

# Thank you to all for continuing to provide suggestions for future meetings.

Remember that Club gatherings offer group events with people from familiar professional backgrounds.

## 2023 - 2024 PROGRAM YEAR KEY EVENT AT MARTIN AUTO MUSEUM

As we look forward to coming together to celebrate our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** at the **Martin Auto Museum and Events Center** on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**, we have assembled information to provide you with a quick overview on this outstanding venue. Founded in 2005, Martin Auto Museum responded to demand and relocated to a new and expanded facility in 2022, and features over 150 vehicles on display.

The museum was founded by real estate developer Mel Martin to showcase his collection of vintage vehicles and automobile related memorabilia.



Mr. Martin began collecting cars in the 1960s. And, over the past 60+ years, has grown his collection of vintage, historical and one-of-a-kind cars to more than 170 vehicles, along with a vast array of automotive memorabilia. While the majority of the vehicles belong to Mr. Martin, a couple belong to the museum's board members.

With the desire to share with those who have an affinity for all things automotive, Mr. Martin and his wife, Sallie Martin, realized it would bring them joy to purchase a building with adequate space to showcase their automobile collection and related artifacts. So, in 2005, Mr. Martin organized his vehicles into a private collection and in 2008, purchased a building in north Phoenix and founded the Martin Auto Museum.

The interest quickly grew for tours and on-site events and early in 2022, the museum moved to a

much larger location on the northwest corner of 43rd Avenue and Thunderbird Road, Glendale. It is known today as the Martin Auto Museum and Event Center. It now houses a collection of over 150 vehicles, with more vehicles stored off-site for rotation into the display on an on-going basis. All vehicles on display offer the basic information including the year, make, model, etc. of each vehicle.



Above left: Mr. Martin enjoys the opportunity to share his collection with those who appreciate classic vehicles and artifacts. Above right: Area dedicated to Corvettes, Camaros, and other high-powered cars in Mr. Martin's collection. Below: Overview of the vast museum display.

The Museum also has one of the largest collections of auto memorabilia, antique gas pumps, and signage anywhere.

A back room shop area is available for vehicle repair and refurbishment, where selected youth have opportunities to work with the mechanics and learn about automotive repair, mechanics, and electrical systems.





#### THE CLUB REPORTER

## 2023 - 2024 PROGRAM YEAR KEY EVENT AT MARTIN AUTO MUSEUM (CONT'D)

Much to our delight, when the Club visited the Museum in April 2022, we were able to sit in most of the vehicles, with many posing for some keepsake photos.



Above: Jon Moss enjoys the vehicle for which he was responsible to build while still working at General Motors. Right: Members enjoy being chauffeured around the museum. Below: Ward Atkinson and Barbara Zielinski remind us how couples used to enjoy sitting next to each other while crusing.



This museum is well-planned for the enjoyment of all ages, including a separate room with pinball and video games. And our younger selves quickly appeared as we enjoyed the carousel ride.





L- Bill & Val Crump R- Susan Hall & Val Culp with Delrene Buterakos & Rosemary Kovacevic further back.



Mr. Martin's Event Team, led by Michael Griffin (*standing left below*) was ready to ensure our Club had an enjoyable visit.



After our gathering last April, with a catered lunch in one of the four banquet rooms, many members were asking... "This museum was phenomenal! When are we coming back?"

Building on this enthusiasm, the GM Alumni Club of AZ has reserved a nicely appointed 4,900 sq ft banquet room, with audio visual and a performance area.

And, while we've all been to car shows over the years, the Martin Auto Museum and Banquet Center reignites memories from our past that help to define a lifetime of personal growth gained through working for an automotive titan.

Mark your calendars now for March 12, 2024. More details regarding plans for the day's activities will be forthcoming in future newsletters and on the Club's website.

#### 2023 - 2024 CLUB YEAR BEGINS IN NOVEMBER

Although we just finished the 2022-2023 Program Year, you'll want to mark your calendar for upcoming Club events later this year. Here are the previews of our planned November and December events to whet your appetite.

ovember 2023



Tiffany Lam was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, where she graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Public Management & Policy with an emphasis in Criminal Justice. She is now a **Community Affairs Coordinator** with the **Maricopa County Attorney's Office**, where she talks to communities about the trends and epidemics that are facing our county.

Join us for an informative session on the most current scams and how to mitigate risk for getting your identity stolen. Tiffany will discuss warning signs, useful prevention tips, what to do if you are a victim, learn how scammers get our information and what they can do with it. We hope you can join us to hear about trending scams and share your stories!"

> Save the Date! Price and registration form available this fall.





## December 2023 Matinee - Day TBD Arizona Broadway Theatre



GM

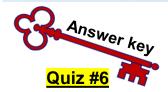
ARIZONA

Bob and Phil, a military veteran song-and-dance duo, fall head-over-heels for a stunning sister act en route to a Christmas stage show. Their romantic pursuits land them in a magical Vermont inn owned by their former commander, General Waverly. As the inn falls on hard times, it's up to Bob and Phil to bring business in, but will their yearning hearts pull them in another direction? Featuring spirited songs from Irving Berlin, White Christmas sparkles with holiday cheer, dancing, and laughter.

The GM Alumni Club of AZ will enjoy a Matinee Musical Performance and a delicious Meal at the Arizona Broadway Theatre. It continues to be a Club favorite.

Watch for the exact Day! Price and registration form available this fall.

#### MEMBERSHIP QUIZ #7 - HOW WELL DID YOU KNOW OUR CLUB MEMBERS?



Here are the answers you have been waiting for from the quiz on page 11 of the last Newsletter. Check your answers; see how you scored; and learn more about our club members. Do you have something of interest that you would like to share in a future **Member Quiz**? If so, just email Roxanne Steffe at **rsteffe1@comcast.net** with the information that will stump our membership.

From March 2023 Club Reporter

Key	Member Name	Highlights & Where to look for additional information…	
C.	George Prentice	He is an accomplished sculpturer participating in many fine art shows in the Phoenix Valley. He is featured in an article in this edition of the newsletter. For more information, see pages 6-8: <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/202303">https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/202303</a> club reporter.pdf	
D.	Lee & Karen Humbert	They have been NASCAR enthusiasts for over 20 years and know how to make it a fun social event! For more information see pages 5 & 6: https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/201301.pdf	
E.	Alan Ray	He's our Alumni Concierge at Sands Chevrolet – Glendale, a General Motors retiree, and a member of our Club. For more information, see pages 9 & 10: https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/201704 club reporter.pdf	
Α.	Robert Kohler	He has served as a volunteer with SAE's "A World in Motion" for more than a decade and is one of 20+ alumni of the General Motors Institute (GMI) in our Club. For more information see page 13: <a href="https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/201704">https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/201704</a> club reporter.pdf	
В.	Don Robins	He's a past president of our Club and led the way in many of our Club members getting involved with SAE's "A World in Motion" at schools throughout the Phoenix Valley, For more information see: <u>https://www.azgmalumni.com/partners.html</u>	
G.	Dick & Shirley Kesterke	They married during his freshman year at GMI and whether during the six-week school term, or the six-week co-op employment rotation, and this loving couple lived in a travel trailer, saving for their future. For more information connect with Dick and Shirley at an upcoming meeting and watch for a future article in The Club Reporter.	
н.	Roger & Cathy Hanneman	They met at the USO while he was serving in the U.S. Army. And, he is one of several Club members who possess great knowledge on gathering one's history via genealogical records. For more information see pages 9-12: https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/201410.pdf	
F.	Mary Ellen Stepanich, Ph.D.	She has her Ph.D. and was a professor at Purdue where she met her husband. Later, he would take a position with Delco Electronics as Division Engineer. She is a lead singer in a local Doo Wop group and a published author. For more information see pages 1, 5-8: <u>https://www.azgmalumni.com/uploads/7/6/0/5/76050309/201510.pdf</u>	

Thanks for your participation in these quizzes. Look forward to more in future newsletters.

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



#### AMBASSADORS' CORNER

This section – the **Ambassadors' Corner** – will regularly keep you updated on what is happening at our Loyal Dealers – awards, special activities, promotions, incentives, etc. Check out their latest news below.



Ken Muecke Thank you!

This month, LIBERTY **W** BUICK announced that our GM Alumni Club Concierge, **Ken Muecke**, will be working only part-time in the office. In order to have a full-time office representative as our Club Concierge, they have identified **Charles Macdonald** as his replacement.

The Club thanks Ken for having so ably taken care of so many members of our Club over the years and welcomes Charles, while looking forward to getting to know him better and working with him.

To that end, we are starting a new section in this newsletter to present a brief biographical sketch of our Alumni Club Concierges, so that when you meet them you may have some facts that will draw you into a closer relationship and a better dealership experience. Today you can get to know our **Liberty Buick and GMC Concierges – Charles Macdonald** and **Lydia Falcon**.



Charles Macdonald Welcome!

## Charles Macdonald – Liberty Buick



I was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California, in 1959 where I lived just two short blocks from the beach. I spent the majority of my early life surfing, spending time on the California beaches and motocross racing. I graduated from SoCal High School and went on to further my education at San Jose State, where

I was offered a spot on the golf team. During the summer before my senior year, I got into a car accident where I broke my back and was forced to end my golf career. Since my schooling was no longer being paid for by my scholarship, I began working for Kirby selling vacuum cleaners part time until I graduated.

After I graduated from San Jose State, I accepted a job with IBM. I only pursued this career path for about nine months before I realized I couldn't stand being trapped in a small office with no windows every day. I eventually went back to Kirby and became a distributor with a 35 man sales team for the next 22 years until I eventually retired.

In 1999 I moved to Arizona; this is when I began my journey with the Liberty family. Unfortunately at the time, Dana Moore already had too many salesmen on the floor, so I went to work for his brother Jerry at Sands Chevrolet. 2003 is when I moved to Surprise and asked Jerry if it'd be okay if I went to work for his brother, since it was so much closer to my new home. In February of 2004 I officially started at Liberty Buick, and you know what they say, the rest was history. I went on to achieve Salesman of the year for six years.

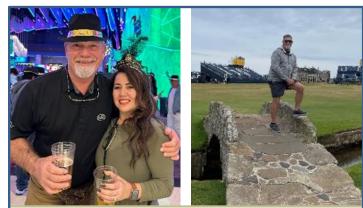
After all these years in the car business, I still think my favorite part of it all is being able to gain so much knowledge on every vehicle and then transferring that knowledge to my customers. I truly think people don't realize how much you care until you show them how much you know, and it's so important to me that I'm able to educate all my customers, so they have the ability to make the best decision when it comes to their new vehicle.



Charles with golf teammates Ben Gruler, Brad Tebrake and Josh Sgro.

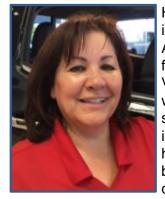
Outside of work, I love to spend as much time as possible with my family. Every Christmas my daughter and two of my grandchildren, who live in London, come here to spend the holidays with us, and every summer my wife and I head over there to see them. I'm also fortunate that my other grandchild lives here, so I am able to spend time with him and watch him grow up. I also spend a lot of my free time golfing again, and restoring my 1986 K10 4WD Chevy pickup.

#### AMBASSADORS' CORNER (CONT'D)



Above left: Charles with his wife, Mayela. Above right: Charles at the renowned St. Andrews Old Course in Scotland, a frequent and famous British Open venue.

## Lydia Falcon – Liberty GMC



Hi everybody! My life started in Texas where I was born. A short six years later my family and I moved to the Valley in California, where I was raised and eventually started my career selling life insurance. In 1998, I moved here to Arizona where my brother brought me into the car business and I first began

my car selling journey at Pontiac!

I remember my first day on the floor when my manager turned to me and said, "Hey Lydia, why don't you go get yourself an up." Being my first day in the business, I had truly no idea what he was I turned back to him and asked talking about. "What's an up?" Who would have thought 25 years later I would still be here, getting 'ups' and doing something I absolutely love!

Early on in my career with Pontiac and my life in Arizona, my son passed away, and I moved back to California to be with my family. I took about three years off from the car business to be with my family and take care of myself. I then moved back to Texas and worked for Autonation for about seven years before I finally found my way back to Arizona in 2016 to live closer to my grandkids, who are now 20 and 21!

My journey with Liberty GMC started shortly after I moved back to Arizona in 2016. A friend of mine was



I've been so fortunate to work for the Liberty family for the past 20 years. I've had the opportunity to see the way it's changed over the years. The ownership here really makes it feel like a big family, so there's really no surprise that people stay here as long as they do! I've had so many memorable experiences with Liberty, from participating in golf tournaments to going to other events like basketball or football games. There's really so much to be thankful here.

Charles looks forward to serving you for your new Buick needs and can be reached at 623-206-4077 or cmacdonald@libertybuick.com.

working at Liberty, and she was always raving about how great of a place it is. So, I drove down the road, interviewed at Liberty GMC, and the rest was history!



Lydia enjoying a work Christmas part with her friend Diane.

There's no better feeling than getting to know my customers, helping them decide on what vehicle checks all their boxes, and then seeing the sparkle in their eyes when I pull it up to them so they can drive it home! I always remember back to when I bought my first brand new car. It was a Mercury Cougar, and I drove it right off the showroom floor. I was grinning ear to ear my entire drive home, and it's always my goal to have my customers experience that feeling of euphoria when they make their purchase!

In 2018 I moved my mom to Arizona to come live with me so I could help take care of her. When I'm not at

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## AMBASSADORS' CORNER (CONT'D)

work I spend most of my time with her! She's 80 years old now, so I bring her to all of her appointments, have movie nights, and do a lot of shopping at Macys.



Lydia helping to celebrate her mother's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

On the weekends we like to go out for food together. She favors Mexican, but sometimes I get to sneak my favorite in there, which is Chinese! Every Sunday we wrap up the week by going and playing Bingo together!

I'm very fortunate to have joined Liberty GMC all those years ago. It has brought me so many friendships and



Lydia and her family enjoying time together.

long-lasting memories! After 25 years of being in this business, I never get tired of meeting and connecting with new people and watching the smile on their face when they drive off in their perfect vehicle.

Lydia looks forward to serving you for your new GMC vehicle needs and can be reached at 806-930-0741 or lfalcon@libertygmcaz.com.

Now that you know the **Liberty** family concierges, they would be happy to meet you and help you toward the purchase of your next new vehicle. Here are the deals they currently have available for our Alumni Club members.









A GM ALUMNI CLUB OF ARIZONA PUBLICATION