

Retiree Newsletter

Info for GM retirees in Arizona

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January, 2011

President's Message

Again I would like to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR. The year has just flown by, I am sure that everyone is well aware of that.

First let me share my appreciation to all help and consideration that has occurred in the past year in the functions of the GM Retirees Club. It has truly been a pleasure.

At our January meeting the election of Officers will be held. The by-laws also provide that individual club Members may place names in nomination for the various offices. The notices of such nomination must be made by letter to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than January 2, 2011. Prior approval of nominee is required.

I want to also take this opportunity to encourage your participation in the club. Let us know if you are so inclined. You will enjoy the experience.

Looking forward to a busy and prosperous 2011.

Mike Neaves

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership 223

AMIN AZ UPDATE

This school year we started 2 AWIM programs in October, and 5 more will start in the January - March timeframe. We have programs from Surprise to Queen Creek, and this school year we have about 16 ASU Engineering students as volunteers in 4 different schools. If you would like more information about 'A World In Motion', or would like to volunteer and

help elementary and junior high students get excited about math and science, contact Don Robins at 480.767.3830. We have about 20 GM retirees who currently volunteer here in Arizona. Volunteers work one day a week for 6 - 8 weeks in the classroom with teachers and the students.

Don Robins

Chuck Jordan, former GM design chief, dead at 83

Chuck Jordan, the legendary designer who helped usher in the modern era of styling at General Motors, died Thursday in California. He was 83.

Jordan was born on Oct. 21, 1927, in Whittier, Calif. Survivors include his wife, Sally, and a son, Mark, who works as a designer for Mazda.

Alan Batey, vice president, Chevrolet Sales and Service. January Speaker.

As vice president of Chevrolet Sales and Service, Alan Batey is responsible for sales distribution, retail advertising, customer service and relationships with the Chevrolet dealer network. Batey assumed the position in March, 2010, having previously served as Chairman and Managing Director of GM Holden Ltd. Operations in Australia and New Zealand.

Batey began his career with General Motors in 1979 as a mechanical engineering apprentice for the company's Vauxhall operation in the United Kingdom.

Throughout his career he has held senior management positions for GM in the United Kingdom, Korea, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, and the United Arab Emirates. These roles included Vice President of Commercial Operations for GM Daewoo, Executive Director Commercial Vehicles & Fleet Sales for GM Europe, Regional Director of GM in the Middle East, Managing Director of Opel in the Netherlands and GM Holden's Executive Director of Sales, Marketing and Aftersales.

Batey completed the General Motors' Senior Executive Program at Harvard University and holds a City and Guilds Parts 1, 2 & 3 in Mechanical Engineering.

GM wants executive pay restrictions relaxed

General Motors Co. CEO Dan Akerson said today the automaker is seeking "some relaxation" in the restrictions on executive pay imposed by the U.S. government.

"We have to be competitive and retain talent," Akerson said in response to a question at the Economic Club of Washington, D.C. "We're starting to lose them now."

Akerson said he would meet with the U.S. Treasury's special paymaster later today to discuss the issue of executive compensation.

GM adds 700 workers at factory near Toronto

General Motors Co. has added 700 workers to its Oshawa, Ontario, factory near [Toronto](#) to make the 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible muscle car and the new Buick Regal midsize car, the company said Monday.

Camaro convertible production is scheduled to start in January, while the plant will start making Regals early in the spring.

The added employees began work Monday on a second shift at one of the factory's two assembly lines. Just two months after GM added a third shift on another line to make more Chevrolet Equinox crossover vehicles, one of the company's hottest sellers. The Equinox looks like a [sport utility vehicle](#) but is more fuel efficient and handles better because it's based on car underpinnings.

GM said the 700 jobs, coupled with those added for Equinox production, have secured more than 1,300 jobs at the plant including the recall of 1,000 laid-off workers and the hiring of 300 new employees.

The Equinox and its sister vehicle, the GMC Terrain, are made at a plant in Ingersoll, Ontario, but GM figured out a way to assemble them at Oshawa as well to handle high demand. The Buick Regal is now imported from Germany, but Oshawa will begin supplying the U.S. and Canada next year.

The Oshawa plant now makes the Camaro hardtop and the Chevrolet Impala.

General Motors November Auto Sales:

General Motors Co. said Wednesday its November U.S. auto sales rose 11 percent from last year on solid performance across its slimmed-down portfolio, which now includes only the Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac brands. GM got rid of Pontiac, Saturn, Hummer and Saab as part of its bankruptcy restructuring.

GM sold 168,739 vehicles in November, compared with 151,427 in November 2009.

TOP SELLERS: GM said its Buick brand saw the biggest monthly increase, up 36 percent. GMC sales rose 30 percent.

HOT MODELS: Combined sales of the Chevrolet Equinox, GMC Terrain and Cadillac SRX increased 56 percent.

GM will return to golf sponsorship

General Motors is getting back into the business of sponsoring golf tournaments.

GM's Cadillac division will sponsor the World Golf Championship in Doral, Fla.

The person says GM also is working to bring a PGA stop back to [Michigan](#).

GM makes \$4B cash payment to pension plans

General Motors Co. says it has made a \$4 billion cash payment to its pension plans.

The company said in October that it would pay \$6 billion to the plans, with \$4 billion in cash and \$2 billion worth of common stock.

GM says Thursday's payment went to the U.S. pension plans. The automaker put \$1.3 billion into the salaried plan and \$2.7 billion into the hourly plan.

At the end of last year the U.S. pension funds were \$17.1 billion short of their obligations. Their value will be measured again at the end of this year.

GM Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell says the payments bring the company closer to fully funding its pensions and having minimal debt.

The 2011 Chevy Cruze

The [Chevy Cruze](#), which comes in five including the Cruze LS, Cruze LT, Cruze 2LT, Eco Cruze, and Cruze LTZ, has an MSRP range from \$16,995 to \$22,695 in the U.S.

"If you really want to see evidence of a turnaround at GM, look no farther than Cruze," said Lyndon Conrad Bell, editor in chief of Decisive Auto.

"Handsome styling, an attractive interior, competent power trains, an enjoyable driving experience, exceptional practicality, and ready affordability all come together to make the Chevrolet Cruze Decisive Auto's 2011 'Urban Car of The Year.'"

The Cruze is a compact car, with midsize car features including 10 airbags, StabiliTrak electronic stability control with rollover sensing, traction control, antilock brakes, collapsible pedal system, power rear-door child safety locks, and limited subscriptions to OnStar and XM Satellite radio.

"We set out to redefine the compact segment with Cruze by offering customers more of the features they want for less money than comparably equipped competitive models," said Margaret Brooks, Chevrolet Small Car marketing director. "The Cruze offers significantly more value than the competition--with more standard equipment, segment leading safety features, segment leading fuel economy and a fun-to-drive ride characteristic."

GM plans to add 1,000 battery tech engineers

General Motors says it will hire 1,000 additional engineers in the Detroit area to work on battery technology.

The automaker says most of the jobs will be at a technical center in Warren, Mich., north of Detroit.

The engineers will help develop batteries for hybrid, electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles of the future.

The company made the announcement at a ceremony marking factory production of the Chevrolet Volt rechargeable electric car.