

# Retirees Newsletter

info for GM retirees in Arizona

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<b>Sub Directors</b>	<b>John Riley, Ward Atkinson, Mary Lou Phillips, Jim Shepherd</b>		

## Presidents Message

Well, it is that time of the year again where we turn down the heat in Arizona and invite all “part time” GM Retirees back to enjoy more great club activities. The action will begin with a “Block Buster” event on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Oakwood Country Club, Sun Lakes, AZ. Sheriff Paul Babeu, Sheriff of Pinal County (the hot bed for drug trafficking, gun running and illegal immigration). This will be a no non-sense presentation by Sheriff Paul which is sure to raise your awareness as to the current status of these critical issues facing our State and National security. So, be sure to write down some questions for the sheriff to address during this meeting. I have enclosed Sheriff Paul’s Bio for your review prior to the meeting. In addition, Coulter Motors of Tempe has agreed to sponsor and share some of the cost for this meeting as will as have vehicles displayed around the Country Club for your review. As you are aware, the Coulter organization sells Cadillac, Buick and GMC products in the greater Phoenix area. Also, remember, guests are always welcome at our meetings.

Our November Meeting will be held in the showroom at Sands Chevrolet in Surprise, AZ. The Chevrolet VOLT will be the topic of discussion and we are delighted that GM has agreed to lend us one of their Michigan based Chevrolet VOLT Engineers for the day. We are working on a “possible ride and drive activity” at the dealership which is contingent on supplies of product. Look for further details in the November Newsletter.

Don’t go north for Christmas until after our December Meeting which will be held at the Broadway Palms Theater in Mesa. It will feature The Dutton’s Christmas Performance. If you remember, The Dutton’s were finalists on NBC’s “America’s Got Talent” competition several years ago. A full buffet luncheon will be featured at significantly reduced prices for both lunch and show. Guests are welcome and are encouraged for this special event.

## Sec’y/Treasurer Report

Word has reached us that several of our loyal members have passed away. Here are their names. Harold Shattuck (GM truck), Art Olson, husband of Mary Olson (GM Training Center), Shirley Jensen (GMAC), Jack Young (Chevrolet Grey Iron). Billie Jeanne Pearson, friend of Ward Atkinson.

The GM Retirees Club offers their condolences to the families and friends of these loyal club participants, All club members are asked to advise Jim Irwin or Jim Smeets if they hear of the passing of a club member. Thank you.  
New member Mike Borugian GMC Truck

## Plant Changes

General Motors Co. factories in four states won commitments from the company to add jobs in a new four-year contract with the United Auto Workers union. Some of the work was scheduled to go to Mexico. The union gave few details on when the new jobs would come:

**Spring Hill, Tenn.:** Former Saturn assembly plant will get two unspecified midsize vehicles. GM will invest \$61 million for one of the vehicles, creating 600 jobs. It will spend \$358 million on the other vehicle, adding 1,100 jobs. The work was originally to go to Mexico. Hiring begins next year.

**Wentzville, Mo.:** Gets additional shift to produce a midsize pickup truck and full-size van. A \$380 million investment and 1,850 new jobs.

**Warren, Mich.:** Transmission plant near Detroit gets new transmission. A \$325 million investment and 360 new jobs. Work originally slated for Mexico.

**Romulus, Mich.:** Plant west of Detroit gets new engine, \$385 million investment and 285 jobs.

**Saginaw, Mich:** Plant gets metal casting work for a new engine, \$215 million investment and 255 jobs.

**Fort Wayne, Ind.:** Truck assembly plant gets next-generation full-size pickups, with a \$230 million investment and 150 jobs created or kept.

In addition, an unspecified plant will get a new GM compact vehicle and 500 jobs as well as an investment of \$150 million. The company says the site has not yet been picked.

Also, a pickup truck assembly plant in Shreveport, La., will close as scheduled, while a plant in Janesville, Wis., will remain idled.

## **Healthcare Reminder**

The enrollment period for considering changes to your healthcare coverage has been changed this year starting on October 15th and ending on December 7th. Be sure to open and review your notice. Some insurers are offering new special needs Plans for people with cardiovascular, COPD and Diabetic Illnesses. Review your notice and if you have any questions, contact your insurance agent. The two local agents who helped many of our members in the past were: Alan and Diane Powell of Powell Insurance at (602)996-6574 and Mike Clark of Strategic Growth Insurance Assoc. at (480)422-2562. These two Professional local agents helped many of our members in the past.

## **Annual Dues for 2011-2012**

As we announced in our March Newsletter the Board has reduced our Annual Dues to \$25.00 from \$30.00. We had raised dues several years ago to cover the high cost of Audio/Visual equipment rental for our meeting presentations. Our cost went down when Steve Mosshart of Straightline Investment Advisor donated a Power Point Projector to our club. We are now able to avoid renting equipment and the Board wanted the savings to be returned to our members so annual dues for 2011-2012 will be \$25.00. You may pay your dues with your reservation for the October meeting. Thank you for continued support.

## **Chevrolet Spark**

The Chevrolet Spark will receive a slight styling refresh when it makes its way to America in late 2012 as a 2013 model, but there's bigger news to be found under the hood of the upcoming city car.

American-market Sparks will be motivated by a 1.2-liter inline-four with about 80 horsepower and 80 lb-ft of torque, according to GM Inside News. The little engine will also help the Spark net an estimated 46 miles per gallon (converted from the European testing cycle) and will mate to a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual transmission.

The aesthetic changes, which include a larger grille and revised lower air intake, are designed to help the car meet federal safety standards.

The Spark, which is based on a shrunken version of GM's global Gamma architecture, will likely be imported to America from GM Korea's Changwon, South Korea assembly plant.

## **Chevrolet Sonic**

General Motors said Wednesday that its new 2012 Chevrolet Sonic has been designated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety as one of its top safety picks.

The small car achieved "good" scores in all four types of the institute's crash tests. It also comes standard with electronic stability control, which is required to receive a top safety pick designation, the automaker said.

In addition to its 10 airbags, the Sonic's body structure incorporates a single welded side ring unit and more than 60 percent of its vehicle safety cage is made up of high-strength steel, GM said.

Other Sonic safety features include latch systems for child safety seats, six months of GM's OnStar service, and power-assisted front disc and rear drum brakes with panic brake assist technology, GM said.

Chevrolet's Volt and Cruze cars also were recently designated at top safety picks by the institute.

## **GM-China**

General Motors Co. is launching a new low-priced sedan in China as part of a push to develop new customers in the world's largest automobile market.

The company said Tuesday that the Baojun 630 is initially being targeted at drivers in the country's second and third tier cities outside the major markets of Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

Equipped with a 1.5-liter engine, the car will come in three variations priced at 62,800 to 73,800 yuan (\$9,764 to \$11,474).

Baojun is produced by the SAIC-GM-Wuling joint venture.

GM's ventures in China sold a record 1.27 million vehicles in the first half of the year, though growth slowed sharply from the double-digit pace of recent years.

## **Lutz Returns**

Former General Motors product guru Bob Lutz will formally advise the automaker as a part-time consultant, Lutz, 79, who retired in May 2010, already had been informally consulting with GM product chief Mary Barra since she took that job in January.

"This formalizes a relationship that's essentially continued since he left General Motors," GM spokesman Jay Cooney said in an interview.

Cooney said Lutz now has a contract with GM that will pay him for his work with Barra and other GM executives. He couldn't say whether Lutz has been paid for his informal work with the company since his retirement.