

# Retiree Newsletter

President: Jim Harshman  
Vice President: Jon Moss  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Von Kampen  
Board Members: Don Van Roekel, John McAlpine, Don Robins, Mike Neaves  
Director Emeritus: Bud Moore, Joe Fetzer  
arizona  
Sub Directors: John Riley, Ward Atkinson, Mary Lou Phillips, Jim Shepherd

Staff Factotum: Jim Smeets  
Staff Media: Bob Bowden  
Staff Record Keeper: Jim Irwin  
Club Website: <http://www.gmretireesclubofarizona>

## Presidents Message:

It's that time of the year when our attention turns to family and the Holiday Season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanks Giving and a safe, joyous Christmas Holiday Season. If you intend to travel during the holidays, please drive safely.

The 2011 Club season has given us some of the finest meetings in recent memory. We were fortunate to have two of GM's Finest General Sales Managers, a Volt Engineer and a Finance Manager. The Talking Stick Casino and NASCAR race were exceptional events and the year ended on a special Dutton Christmas Performance. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the tireless dedication of the members of the Board of Directors and our support teams. These are the people who think up the meeting ideas and perform the tasks required to make them happen. For this, we should all be extremely grateful and extend a big Thank You! In addition, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fantastic job Don Robins and his team of volunteer Club Members have done with expanding and improving the Arizona AWIM program. Truly, we are the best in the country in executing and promoting this activity. Now, don't think we are going to slack off in 2012.

At our January meeting we will feature a presentation from the SRP Electric Company. Mr. Jason Dudley, SRP Community Outreach, will give us a look into the future and be prepared to answer the tough questions we are all wondering about..."how much is my electric bill going to cost in the future"? What is causing my bills to rise every year and just what is causing costs to go up? "What does the government's role have to do with costs? Don't miss this meeting, it will be extremely informative.

February, Mr. Tom Stevens, Vice Chairman, GM Global Technology will be our featured speaker. Tom is one of the highest GM Executives to speak at our meetings since Rick Wagnor spoke to us several years ago.

March is a "Barn Burner"...one you don't want to miss. I call it a "Western BBQ in a Hanger". Our meeting will be held at the CAF Aviation Museum in Mesa. Yes, and we will serve some great BBQ. This is a world class aviation museum. Earnhardt Buick will be our dealer sponsor and will display vehicles among the bombers and fighter planes. Speakers will be on hand to discuss the museum and planes on display. This is the second in a series of three "special events" presented to you by the GM Retiree Club of Arizona "Special Events Committee". I am sure you all remember their NASCAR event.

In April, the "Special Events Committee" will be serving Breakfast at the Botanical Gardens in Phoenix. Have you ever wondered why your desert plants are dying? Speakers will address issues surrounding how to keep your plants alive. Their Butterfly Exhibit is exceptional and will also be featured.

In closing, I would like to remind you that our annual Club Election of Officers is taking place during the month of December. If you are interested in volunteering your time or would like to nominate another person to be considered to serve on the Board of Directors, please forward your "letter of intent" to Bill Von Kampen, Secretary-Treasurer no later than January 2, 2012. Letter is available as an attachment to this newsletter.

Respectfully submitted;

*Jim Harshman President*

Sec'y/Treasurer Report  
No report this month

## eCar systems

While the 2014 Chevrolet Equinox may offer the eAssist hybrid system, there's now word that the Detroit giant has already built a nine-strong all-electric demonstration fleet of its super-popular crossover. Calling on the E-Car Systems unit of Magna to do the technological heavy lifting – the same folks who helped Ford develop its Focus Electric – and with a little financial help from the Ontario government, the project is intended to give both GM and Magna some insight into how vehicles in this larger segment perform with an electric drivetrain...