

Retiree Newsletter

info for GM retirees in Arizona

President	Jim Harshman	Staff Factotum	Jim Smeets
Vice President	Jon Moss	Staff Media	Bob Bowden
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Von Kampen	Staff Record Keeper	Jim Irwin
Board Members	Don Van Roekel, John McAlpine, Don Robins, Mike Neaves		
Director Emeritus	Bud Moore, Joe Fetzer		
Sub Directors	John Riley, Ward Atkinson, Mary Lou Phillips, Jim Shepherd		

President's Message

December, 2011

Can you believe it is almost Christmas? Do we have a special treat for you this year. On Wednesday , December 14th we will attend the Dutton's Holiday Performance at the Beautiful Broadway Palms Dinner Theater

Many of you will recall seeing the Duttons on the TV show America's Got Talent. We had a portion of their show at the Briarwood two years ago. This performance will be their full production on their stage. The Duttons, one of the Valley's favorite performing families has Branson's only show featuring one complete and immediate family that does a completely live show with no other hired performers. Showcasing a wide array of musical variety the Duttons combine vocal harmonies, instrumental virtuosity, high energy dancing and heart-warming comedy that will keep everyone entertained and leave all with a smile. Over the course of the show, each Dutton will play at least six different instruments. Combined, the family plays more than 50. The variety and versatility of the performance is amazing. Added to this show is the Holiday music we all love and enjoy signing along with. Don't miss this wonderful introduction to the holiday season. This is a great event to invite friends and family to attend.

The Duttons have reserved 200 of their best seats so we need to receive your reservation by November 28th so if we do not use all of the seats we can turn them back for others to use. They will have a full house.

A special thanks to the committee of Don and Judith Robins and Jon and Susan Moss for arranging this wonderful event for our Club

Jim Harshman

SAE Meeting with a GM speaker on Thursday, November 17

The November meeting of the Arizona SAE Arizona Section group will have a GM speaker talking about small diesels. Brent Hendrickson, Global Program Manager and Chief Engineer - 2.5L/2.8L Diesel Engines. His talk will be about the new GM's New L4 Duramax Diesel Engine

A look at the newest entry to GM global diesel engine portfolio. This new L4 diesel engine comes in 2.8L and 2.5L displacements. Targeted specifically for light-duty truck applications, the engine provides superior performance coupled with reliability and durability necessary for this demanding segment. The engine will be introduced initially for emerging markets which require additional capability and versatility. The product overview will also include discussion on the topic of diesel engines in general. Of particular note - diesel presence and continued growth especially in emerging markets, with potential implications for other key markets.

Location: Airport Hilton 2435 S 47th Street, Phoenix

Time: 6:00pm Social 6:30PM Dinner 7:30 Program

Cost for this meeting will be presentation cost with dinner

Students \$12.00, SAE Members \$23.00, Guests \$27.00

Any one interested in attending should RSVP by going to the SAE Arizona sections website to register (www.arizona.org/meetings). RSVP by Tuesday November 15th.

No Dinner: Students -No charge. Members and guests-\$10.00

To attend (with a seat for dinner), please RSVP no later than 10:00am Tuesday, November 15th ! . If you wish to attend the presentation only, please RSVP no later than 2:00pm Wednesday, November 16th. For additional information, Call Don Robins at (480)7673830.

GM-China

General Motors, benefitting from higher microvan sales and overcoming a sluggish broader market, says its Chinese joint ventures sold 240,244 vehicles in China in September, up 15 percent from the same month last year.

Chevrolet sales in third quarter 2011

Chevrolet sold 1.2 million vehicles globally in the third quarter, the best July-to-September results in the brand's 100-year history. In the first nine months of 2011, Chevrolet sold 3.6 million vehicles globally, positioning the brand for its best-ever calendar-year sales.

"Nine months of record sales is a great testament to the strength of Chevrolet's products and service," said Chris Perry, vice president, Chevrolet global marketing and strategy. "That success would not be possible without first

connecting with new customers individually – no matter where they live – listening to their needs, and then welcoming them to the Chevrolet family.”

That customer-focused approach is best illustrated by the successful U.S. launch of the Cruze compact sedan. Chevrolet sold more than 175,000 Cruzes worldwide in the third quarter of 2011, fueled by U.S. and China sales growth. More than 970,000 Cruzes have been sold since it was introduced in early 2009, and the 1 millionth Cruze is expected to sell by the end of October.

Saginaw Casting Plant

General Motors Co. will spend \$215 million at a metal casting plant in Saginaw, Mich., to build components for a new engine program.

The investment unveiled today is part of \$2.5 billion that GM pledged to spend on plant upgrades and product programs under its new labor agreement with the UAW. The four-year pact will create or retain more than 6,400 jobs. The Saginaw casting factory already builds engine blocks and cylinder heads for cars including the Buick LaCrosse and Chevrolet Malibu.

Chevrolet Spark

Chevrolet plans to roll out a Spark mini-car that runs entirely on electricity beginning in 2013, a move that will add to General Motors Co.'s electric car fleet.

The Detroit automaker said Wednesday that the Spark EV will be sold in limited quantities in certain U.S. markets, such as California, and overseas.

The pricing as well as further information on specific markets and quantities will be disclosed later, GM said.

Buick Regal

Based on the Epsilon architecture, the Regal is the unequivocal athlete of GM's midsize sedans. Even in normal guise the Regal handles fairly well, but the GS takes it to the next level with beefier hardware all around.

The GS drops the base Regal's McPherson Strut front suspension in favor of GM's HiPer Strut. This setup virtually eliminates torque steer in the car, despite having gobs of torque at the front wheels. So no, all-wheel drive is not needed on the car from a performance perspective. With that said, we certainly would not balk at the idea of GM's Haldex-supplied all-wheel drive system becoming optional at some point time.

Working in tandem with a lower ride height all around, the rear stabilizer bar has increased by 20-percent, aiding in both weight distribution and handling. The combination leaves the Regal GS with some really remarkable handling attributes, including a very solid feel at high speed.

During our drive the GS was always extremely composed with well-controlled body motions and very little in the way of body roll. Overall the GS is devoid of most body sway and has a very 'planted' feel during just about all maneuvers. In fact, during one stint of the drive the phrase 'BMW-like' was used to describe just how composed the Regal GS is.

Every GS comes standard with Interactive Drive Control, which allows the driver to select different modes that tweak the suspension, steering and throttle response. Regal GS has Normal, Sport and GS modes. Sport mode stiffens the dampers a bit and is, overall, not a big change from Normal mode. GS mode is where most enthusiasts are going to want to be.

Activating GS mode stiffens the dampers even more and engages a different steering tuning with far more weight and feedback to it. It is the steering changes that make GS mode the likely default for most performance drivers, in normal mode the steering is simply too light for our tastes. GS mode also subtly changes the backlighting on the gauge cluster for some added aesthetic drama.

Cadillac plug in

General Motors said it will sell a Cadillac coupe with plug-in technology similar to that of the Chevrolet Volt. GM first showed the car, the Converj, as a concept at the 2009 Detroit auto show. The car will be called the Cadillac ELR. The vehicle's development is "just under way, so details on performance, price and timing will be announced later," GM said. The ELR will use propulsion technology similar to that of the Volt, which went on sale in late 2010. Cadillac says the ELR will be equipped with a T-shaped, lithium-ion battery, an electric drive and a four-cylinder engine that serves as a generator. Don Butler, Cadillac's vice president of marketing, said in a statement. "The ELR will offer something not otherwise present: the combination of electric propulsion with striking design and the fun of luxury coupe driving."