

Murphy to Become First Woman President of Club GM

by Jim Stickford

Katie Murphy, treasurer and future vice president of Club GM, was recently presented with the organization's Lou Seaton Award for her work and service to the organization.

Murphy is engineering group manager of the Knowledge Center for GM and has been a member of Club GM for about four years.

Originally from Wisconsin, Murphy is a graduate of the University of Miami in Ohio and has worked for GM since May of 1984. She and her husband Robert have three sons – Thomas, 21; Cody, 18; and Bobby 14.

"I joined the club because I wanted to organize the annual ski trip the club took to Crystal Mountain, near Traverse City," Murphy said. "I had been going on the trip for the previous few years and the man who was organizing it was retiring. You don't have to belong to the club to go on the ski trip."

And thus was born a fruitful re-

lationship, Murphy said. She is still organizing the ski trip. In 2013, club members will take the trip Jan. 20-22. Because of Martin Luther King Day, they are able to make the trip a three-day event.

"Next, I assume the duties of vice president of the club," Murphy said. "I ran for that position recently and won. The year after next, I become president. I'll be the first woman president of the club."

Club GM, Murphy said, was originally known as the GM Men's Club. But they changed the name of the organization after women were allowed to be members. One thing that surprises people is that you don't have to actually work for GM to be a member of the club.

The club's founder was Lou Seaton, who was GM's chief bargainer at the time of its start back in 1933.

"We are going to be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2013," Murphy said.

The club is involved in a lot of activities, Murphy said. One of them is running a concession

stand at Ford Field during football games. People are surprised that groups like Club GM run the stands, but it makes sense once you think about it, Murphy said.

"We do the work for free and get a percentage of the sales and the concession company doesn't have to pay people," Murphy said.

"On game days we run three stands. It's a lot of work. You have to start at about 9 a.m. and go to 5 p.m. We try to have about 16 to 20 people there at each game. It's work so there's not actually a lot of watching football, but it is an exciting atmosphere."

The club also puts on regular bowling events and runs three stores in GM buildings. One store is in the design building, one is in the VEC building and a new one just opened up in Pontiac. They sell GM-branded items such as shirts and mugs and model cars. All proceeds go to charity.

Ford Brand Stands Alone in '12 With 2 Million U.S. Sales

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In the first four months of sales, 13,309 C-MAX vehicles were sold, making it the fastest sales start of any hybrid vehicle in the industry.

Not all the car sales news was positive. The Ford Fiesta had a good December 2012, selling 5,612 compared with sales of 3,673 during the same time in 2011. But a good December didn't stop the Fiesta sales from dropping 17.2 percent in 2012 (56,775 vs. 68,574 in 2011).

The Mustang, on the other hand, saw a 17.8 percent sales increase compared to 2011 – 82,995 vs. 70,438.

Taurus sales saw yearly sales go from 63,526 in 2011 to 66,066 in 2012, representing a 4 percent increase. The model's December sales increased 9 percent over the previous year, hitting 6,159.

Ford again became America's best-selling brand of utility vehicles in 2012, with 619,470 vehicles sold. Escape broke its 2011 record sales levels with 261,008 vehicles sold, up 3 percent. Explorer gained 17 percent for the year, with 158,344 vehicles sold.

The Edge also saw a year-over-year increase of 5.1 percent –

"We support many charities," Murphy said. "We just gave away \$30,000 for the holidays to the 40 or 50 charities we support. When we get new members, they can suggest new charities to support and we, as a group, vote on whether or not to support the suggested charity."

Murphy said she is proud of her work as treasurer, keeping track of the money the club raises. But she didn't expect to receive the Seaton award. In the club's 80 years, it's only been given out about 30 times.

"Getting the award was quite an honor as well as a surprise," Murphy said. "I didn't know that the board was considering giving me the award. They had a secret meeting to talk about the nominations and none of us knew about it, so when it was announced, I was very surprised. This is such an honor."



Power Squadron classes are now available for the spring.

Advanced Seamanship Classes Give Boaters an Edge in Safe Operation

The United States Power Squadrons are offering advanced courses in Seamanship, Piloting, and Sail in Oakland County starting Jan. 9.

This gives interested parties time to take all three courses and still have time to get their boats ready for launch in the spring.

The United States Power Squadrons have specialized in boating safety education and advanced training in all boating-related skills for nearly 100 years.

The first course, Seamanship, starting Jan. 9, explores everything that a boater needs to understand the skills and demonstrate the ability to safely handle, maneuver, dock, operate, tie up, and care for a vessel, either sail or power, anchoring, emergencies, rules of the road, and marlinespike/basic knots.

The course provides an understanding of how boats behave under various conditions, including close quarters and open water operations.

Information for safe operation in waters of Canada and Mexico is also included.

The second course in the sequence, Piloting, follows on March 20, and focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today, emphasizing GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough traditional techniques for boaters to find their way, even if a GPS fails.

It includes in-class exercises that develop piloting skills through hands-on practice and learning.

Subjects include charts and their interpretation, navigation aids and how they point to safe water, plotting courses and determining direction and distance, use of the mariner's compass, using a GPS, setting waypoints and routes and staying on a GPS route, pre-planning safe courses

and entering them into a GPS, monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning.

An optional course, Sail, starting on Jan. 28, can be taken along with Seamanship and Piloting. The course offers a full spectrum of education to the beginner and experienced sailor alike, beginning with basic boat designs, rigging and sail processes for the non-sailor.

The course covers the physical aspects of sailing, sail applications, knots useful to sailors, helmsmanship, handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy-weather sailing.

Seamanship starts Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., and runs for 10 weeks at the Bloomfield Hills City Hall.

Course cost, which covers course materials, is \$80 for USPS members, \$130 for non-members.

Piloting starts Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m., and runs for 10 weeks at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Franco Communication Center at 44405 Woodward Ave., Pontiac. Course cost, which covers course materials, is \$100 for USPS members, \$150 for non-members.

Sail starts Monday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m., and runs for 10 weeks at the Bloomfield Hills City Hall.

Course cost, which covers course materials, is \$75 for USPS members, \$125 for non-members. Any one, two, or all three courses can be taken this winter.

For registration and more information regarding class dates, times and locations, contact the Birmingham Power Squadron on 248-224-7235 or via the group's Website at www.birminghampowersquadron.org, or by emailing seo@bpsd9.org.

Seats are still available at all courses.

127,969 in 2012 vs. 121,702 in '11.

Ford trucks continued to dominate in 2012 – with F-Series remaining America's best-selling pickup for the 36th straight year and 31 consecutive years as America's best-selling vehicle.

Overall, 645,316 F-Series were sold, a 10 percent increase versus 2011.

Total Ford brand truck sales – including Transit Connect and E-Series – were up 2 percent for the year at 829,477 vehicles sold.

Ford also remained America's largest maker of commercial trucks for 28 years, posting a 7 percent increase in 2012. That marks Ford's best year for commercial truck sales since 2008.

Last month, Ford delivered its best December sales results since 2006, with 214,222 vehicles sold – a 2 percent increase.

The year 2012 saw the end of the Lincoln Town Car. The MKZ had a bad December 2012 – 1,630 vs. 2,435 a year earlier. But that didn't stop the MKZ from seeing a 1.9 percent year-over-year sales increase – 28,053 vs. 27,529.

Lincoln sold 12,524 MKS vehicles in 2012, pretty much the same as 2011 when they sold 12,217.

2013 NAIAS AutoGlow Slated for Ford Field

The Children's Center's 2013 AutoGlow, Vive Detroit event, will be held at Ford Field on Friday, Jan. 18, following the North American International Auto Show Charity Preview.

The event will be hosted by Lisa and Bill Ford and Nicki and Alan Mulally. The 2013 AutoGlow, Vive Detroit, celebrates Detroit's French origins with world-class cuisine, live entertainment and reception with supporters of The Children's Center.

Ford Field is one of the most environmentally-friendly stadiums in the country, a stipulation for the event's location.

Lisa Ford, one of AutoGlow 2013's co-hosts and a member of The Children's Center's Board of Directors, said, "Bill and I support many environmental initiatives. As long-term supporters of The Children's Center, we felt that AutoGlow 2013 should reflect the sustainable business practices we all embrace."

Ford Field is an energy-efficient facility that incorporates a number of green construction techniques, such as the reuse of an unused building; the integration of recycled steel, glass, and rubber; as well as skylights to increase natural lighting and state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems.

Only a limited number of tickets are still available. Individuals

can purchase tickets for \$325. Sponsorship packages begin at \$7,500.

To purchase tickets or spon-

sorship packages and to learn more about the event, call 313-262-1085 or visit thechildrenscenter.com/autoglow.

GM First to Sell 1 Million 30-mpg Vehicles in a Year

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pickup sales were the highest since September 2008.

December highlights include Chevrolet total sales reaching 167,091, an increase of 3.7 percent over December 2011. Retail sales were 123,021, a .9 percent improvement over the same time in 2011. Total sales for 2012 reached 1,851,646, a 4.3 percent improvement for the year. Retail sales reached 1,269,679, a 3 percent increase over 2011.

GMC total sales for December were 43,921, a 4.7 percent improvement over December 2011. December 2012 retail sales were 37,626, a .6 percent improvement over 2011's figures. Total GMC retail sales for 2012 reached 413,881, a 2.4 percent increase over the previous year.

Buick December retail sales hit 15,659, an 8.9 percent increase over the same time in 2011. Total retail sales were 162,986, a 5.7 percent improvement over 2011.

Cadillac retail sales reached 16,775 for December, up 5 percent over the 2011 month. Total retail sales for the year hit 140,625, a 2.4 percent increase vs. 2011.

Total GM retail sales for 2012 were 1,922,458, a 3.1 percent improvement compared with 2011. Total sales, including fleet sales, were 2,595,717, a 3.7 percent increase over 2011.

Another way to look at GM's sales figures is to look at inventory-on-hand when compared with 2011. As of Dec. 31, 2012, the company's total inventory of all vehicles was 717,025, which amounts to a 76-day supply of cars and trucks. The numbers for 2011 show an inventory of 788,194, or a 106-day supply of vehicles.

"GM's strong finish in 2012, the industry's momentum and the overall health of the U.S. economy make us optimistic about 2013," McNeil said.

"The budget compromise reached in Washington this week removes uncertainty and clears the way for full-year light vehicle sales to rise to the 15 million to 15.5 million unit range in 2013," he added.

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