



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXV, No. 7

August 2005

BATAVIA OR BUST BCA NATIONAL - JULY 6-9 Contributed by Adam Martin

Where do I start? I suppose the beginning would suffice... This trip was a much-needed break for me as I'm sure it was for the rest of us who made the drive to Batavia, New York for the 2005 BCA National Meet. No matter how stressful these shows can be, they're still a warm welcome compared to what waits for you when you come home after a week or more away!

The majority of the members left on Tuesday morning to get a jump on the road before rush hour traffic and heat got the best of us. As soon as we entered Indiana, there seemed to be an excess of road construction...even worse than Ohio! One spot in particular was backed up a mile or so due to poor routing

of the traffic around the construction area. After about a half hour of sitting in virtually one spot, we got back on track. The rest of the Tuesday drive was fairly smooth, accompanied only by some thick traffic around Indianapolis, which was to be expected.

Since most of us weren't willing to drive 850 miles in one run, we all decided to take a break in Medina, Ohio near Columbus for the night. The dinner that evening proved to be interesting due to the fact that most of our food was either wrong or uncooked! Yet we managed to have a good time and stayed an hour after they closed. I was wondering why no one else was sitting in the restaurant.

(Continued on page 2)



UPCOMING EVENTS: August 4 Monthly Meeting at Chuck-A-Burger
August 17-20 Heartland Regional in Chicago

BATAVIA OR BUST

(Continued from page 1)

The next morning we attempted to make an early exit from the hotel. Unfortunately, Cracker Barrel didn't want us to leave so fast. Most of our restaurant experiences on this trip had been sub-par up to this point. So, after an extra long breakfast, we gassed up and got back on the road. After going through about ten tollbooths, I was beginning to wonder if we were ever going to get there!

At last I spotted the Batavia exit and we had made it. It was around 3:30pm when we rolled into the parking lot, so we unpacked and got situated. A quick stroll through the swap meet was enough to work up a hunger for dinner. Accompanied by Mike and Nancy Book, we went into town to a place called "Prato," an Italian place that didn't seem to have many of us convinced of coming back. Yet another restaurant blunder...

Thursday was a fairly uneventful day consisting of lots of walking the vendor areas and meeting people from different areas. This is one of the things I really enjoy since I am a frequent user of the BCA online forums and other discussion boards. This affords me an opportunity to meet some of the people I have been talking to for a couple years yet have never met face-to-face. Jim Lore, a friend from the Buick Performance Group, flew in for a day or two to scrounge the vendor area for parts and to say "hi" to some friends. With Jim, a few of us went to dinner at Bob Evans. For the first time this trip, we had a good experience eating!

As with every trip I've taken in the past couple years, the rain caught up with us on Friday. I hadn't gotten halfway through a wax job on my car when the downpour started. We attempted to wait it out by sitting in our lawn chairs under the overhang at the hotel, but it proved to be a waste of time. Late in the afternoon the rain finally gave us some time to dry the cars and continue where we had left off. For dinner that evening our chapter members gathered at a local steakhouse and celebrated the July birthdays.

Show time! Early Saturday morning dropped a little bit more rain on us, but it cleared up for a

beautiful day. I can't remember the exact number, but there were around 550 cars in the show and a somewhat less populated vendor area. As always, there are still some gems to be found in the piles of parts scattered in boxes around the parking lot.

The BCA added a new division to the club this year – the Modified Division. Keith Horsfall is heading up this division and it looks like there is a lot of interest in it. It is also bringing out some other folks who would not normally show their cars. The way these cars are judged, on the other hand, leaves something to be desired. I wouldn't be surprised if it is a completely different format next year since this year it was a bit unorganized and rough. I am glad, though, that the BCA has introduced such a division and I applaud Keith for taking on such a daunting task!

Our members did well in the awards ceremony with many of us collecting plaques to take home. Overall, it was a successful event. A big THANKS to the Fingerlakes Chapter for hosting the 2005 BCA National Meet!

The trip home was fairly smooth with only a few minor hiccups. I do believe that Phil and Mary Berger might disagree with me on that comment, though. On the way out to New York, one of their trailer tires blew out. And on the way home TWO MORE tires gave way! We all stuck together very closely after that to make sure everyone made it home safely. Now that I'm home again, I can't wait to get back out on the road!

Adam



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE BCA NATIONAL



Adam Martin Drives off into the sunset.

DEGLMAN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Just returned from the BCA Nationals in Batavia, New York. It was a very interesting 1700-mile trip. We had 10 cars and 15 chapter members make the trip. Without mentioning names we had 1 blown intake manifold, 3 blown trailer tires, 1 set of headlights left on, 1 set of keys locked in a trunk, a broken wheel spoke and cracked wheel bearing, and some green gunk blowing through an air conditioning unit.

Once we got to Batavia, our chapter members spread out and did their own thing. I saw many friends and made a "few" purchases in the swap meet area. We did all get together for a wonderful dinner on Friday night. Thanks to Pete Nathan for setting up the dinner.

The show had 540 registered cars; 90 cars were in the driving class. I heard there were 296 trophy winners. Among our club members, congratulations go to:

Bill & Ginny Landers	'90 Reatta Conv. Senior Preservation
Herb & Sharon Morris	'90 Reatta Conv. Senior Preservation
Layne Van Overmeer	'68 GS HT Senior Preservation
Bob Windal	'70 GS Convertible Senior Preservation
Phil & Mary Berger	'32 Model 56S Silver Award
Paul & Mary Ann Meyer	'57 Roadmaster Conv. Silver Award
Pete Nathan	'35 60 Series 2 nd , Modified 1910 – 1939

Personally, I think these cars did well due to our "White Russian" detailing parties held on Thursday and Friday nights till the wee hours in the morning. Here's hoping that we can double our numbers next year in Rochester, Minnesota.

Random Notes on things I've seen and heard:

Many thanks to Carl and Karen Schmiehausen for the wonderful picnic at their home on June 25th. They are perfect hosts.

It's good to see Herb Morris looking and feeling so good. Herb had a defibrillator put in recently and is doing well.

A hearty welcome to our new members Arson and Amy White with a '72 Estate Wagon, Kenny and Monte Williams with a '72 Sun Coupe and Tim and Bernadette Oppelt with a '69 GS. Glad to have you with us.

Congratulations to Adam Martin for being elected to the Board of Directors of the Buick Performance Group. Lastly, it is with great joy that I can announce to you that our very own Paul Meyer is the new **President** of the BCA. Paul has worked very hard for all of us as a member of the BCA Board and will continue to do so as our President. Congrats, Paul, on a well deserved honor.

Mark your calendars for the August meeting at 7:30 on Thursday, August 4th, at Chuck-A-Burger on St. Charles Rock Road. Also hope to see many of you at the Heartland Regional in Lincolnshire, Illinois, August 17-20th.

In closing keep John and Chris Waltz in your thoughts and prayers. John enters the hospital for stem cell transplant July 22nd.

Keep driving those beautiful Buicks,
Hank

