



# Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

**BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA**

Volume XXVII, No. 1

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## AS WE KICK OFF ANOTHER BUICK YEAR HERE IS A PREVIEW OF THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ARTICLES

### Member Profile Steve Dodson

We see Steve as one of our chapter's hardest working Buick club members. But in this profile Steve admits to car interests beyond Buicks.



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### Holiday Party December 10th

The party was festive and fun. Our group can enjoy a get together without dancing on tables or wearing their new California Dusters.



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### North American International Auto Show - Detroit

John and Chris Waltz share pictures from their January 15th visit to the Detroit show including the pre-production Enclave and the EFIJY.



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### 2007 Gateway Chapter BCA Calendar

The Gateway Chapter Calendar is a work in progress, but check it out and mark your personal calendars. See the calendar section of the web-site.



**UPCOMING** February 1st 7:30 PM Monthly Meeting at C J Muggs  
**EVENTS:** February 17th 1:00 PM Hyman Garage tour with Archway Olds Club

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Wow! It's 2007! Off we go for another year packed with things to do and places to go.

I want to take a moment and say thanks for all those that helped during 2006. It was a tough year, but with the support of the board and many members of the club, I think it turned out pretty good.

2007 is shaping up. As you can see from the calendar on page 11, we have a lot going on. I'm sure that in the February meeting we may be adding more. A spring trip to a winery comes to mind. Give it some thought. I'm sure we can add more to the schedule.

We have added several events that include a bit of driving. I have heard from a few members that they are worried about traveling far in their older cars. If you are one of these, take note that several members are pretty fair mechanics and are more than willing to help if the need should arise. I also carry along on trips not only the basic tools and supplies but even a small floor jack and

stands, just in case. While traveling over 10,000 miles in my '55 the only repair required was to a bad brake sending unit (a 15 minute repair in Minnesota).

If you have mechanical questions, the club is a wealth of information and guidance. I have learned a ton about car restoration and maintenance since joining the club.

If you're still concerned about driving and you aren't convinced to give it a try but would like to go, call me and I'll be happy to make arrangements to get you to the event. My '55 and '70 have plenty of room. The important thing is to enjoy the club.

Hope to see you at the next meeting at C J Muggs.

*Bob Brasses*, Director  
(636) 343 1507

### BOB BRASSES REPORTS ON RECENT CLUB OUTINGS



#### **"Winter Wonderland" at Tillis Park** December 7th Tour

It was a cold night December 7th when several members of the club met at the St. Louis Bread Company in Brentwood and then toured the light displays at Tillis Park. Steve Dodson had the additional challenge of not having dash lights, and the passenger door on my '70 Electra decided it was too cold to latch. Other than that we had a good time eating, talking and enjoying the lights.

#### **The Old Spaghetti Factory** January 13th Lunch Gathering

The turnout was light but that was not surprising since the weather forecasts showed the snow and ice storms approaching that darkened homes in the St. Louis area for the second time in a month and a half. The food was great and the conversation was just what a blustery winter day needed.

## MEMBER PROFILE - STEVE DODSON

Old cars have been my favorite hobby for more than 18 years. My first "old car" is my 1968 Buick Electra 225 Convertible which I purchased from a customer. Soon after, I joined this Buick Club and have enjoyed every minute of it! The Buick was just the start of my trip down that "old car" road as I have bought and sold several cars through the years. Of all the cars passing through my care, the Buick is still with me.

In my 1998 profile, I wrote about my first car, a 1957 Mercury; now I own three of them, but only one is drivable at this time). I have been restoring one of my '57 Mercurys for over ten years and though the process is getting old (So am I.) I still have high hopes of someday completing it!

As you can see from the pictures, I have three cars that are drivers: a 1968 Buick, a 1957 Mercury and a 1973 Cadillac. I'm sure a lot of our Buick Club members belong to other car clubs as do I. I have, like most people, interests in cars other than Buicks. I have to say that the '57 Mercury is my favorite car in the collection, I guess because my first car was a '57 Mercury!

I know this is a Buick Club newsletter, but I must tell you a little about my drivable Mercury. I bought it on eBay; it came from Las Vegas; it had 46,000 miles; it's still original; and I have a photo taken in 1991 of Chubby Checker sitting in the front seat!

I hold membership in the BCA, local & national (past local director); AACA, local & national (past local president); Moolah Shriners Antique Cars (past president, currently chairman); Model T Club, local & national; Horseless Carriage Club; and Mercury Owners Association.

Everybody loves a parade and I participate in several each year. As an insurance broker for 38 years and selling Hagerty Insurance, I have given talks to many local car clubs. I judge cars in several car shows in and about town each year for the Gateway City Antique Car Club, Easter Car Show, St. Charles Lions Club Car Show, St. Charles Octoberfest Car Show, etc.

In the past I used to go fishing a lot, but I traded my boat and fishing pole for an old car! I have no regrets; it keeps me on dry land and closer to home. There is a saying: a bad day fishing is better than a good day at the office. Well, some days are still bad working on the old cars, but that all seems to go away when you're on the open road and you get a thumbs-up from a passing motorist. I would rather be driving my old car anytime than having a good day at the office!

Safe motoring,  
Steve Dodson



Above: Steve's three current, collectable drivers.

Left: Steve leading us to believe he finds time to work on his 10-year project '57 Mercury 2-dr HT



# HOLIDAY PARTY AT C J MUGGS December 10, 2006



Bob Brasses and Pete Nathan present the Hard Luck trophy to Mike Marx for his struggles in 2006 getting his 1930 engine rebuilt. Mike might also mention the cost involved.



Steve Dodson presented his latest Buick stained glass window to raffle winner, Bob Brasses.

Our chapter members were in good spirits for the holiday gathering. We enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere and spent time catching up on what others have been doing. And we eventually went to tables for our meals and more conversation. There were the usual embarrassments: a couple bad meals out of maybe 30 and table seating that left a few without the company they deserved. But my biggest regret was that I didn't have time to speak to some of the members. After dinner Bob Brasses, Director, led our monthly meeting in an efficient manner and then we had awards, presentations and raffles.

Steve and Sherrie Dodson brought their friends, Franco and Frances Palmeri, who joined the club on the spot. Monica Ledwon also brought a friend.

*Ed*

Bob Brasses writes:

I think everyone enjoyed the holiday party. I know the person that got the propane heater was very happy to get it and I was thrilled to win the stained glass raffle. I only bought about \$20 worth of tickets. Barb and I dropped off the Toys for Tots donations at Automotive Technology Inc. (ATI). They were one of the few auto-related drop off points. The toys were accepted by Gene Slatterly, CEO of ATI. Automotive Technology is a full service supplier of automotive collision repair equipment and has been providing expert sales, service, installation and training to the industry for over 23 years. (See their website at <http://www.automotivetechology.com/page.home>) We have been invited to tour the facility and also take a tour of Mills Motor Collision & Customs which is next door. Mills uses a lot of the equipment that ATI carries. ATI will also do counter sales to non-business customers. There is a nice restaurant within walking distance. Maybe a fall outing?





# NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

JANUARY 8 - 18, 2007



Buick's Northstar V-8 available in the Lucerne  
There was also a cutaway display for the 3.6 L V-6.



Chris enjoyed the grand displays at the Detroit show.  
Jeep had a Wrangler climbing a vertical rock wall.



The motor displays were accompanied by engineers from Flint. I spoke with a cam designer.

## ENCLAVE

Notice the good access to the 3rd row of seats. Children especially liked the cutaway model.





# NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW BUICK BLACKHAWK REVISITED FIVE YEARS LATER?



Holden EFIJY



1953 Holden FJ



## EFIJY by Holden (GM), Australia

Holden's EFIJY concept car - the star of the 2005 Sydney motor show – was sent to the United States to take center stage on General Motors' display at the 2007 Detroit auto show. The 21st-century hot-rod is powered by a 6.0-litre V8 that is 11 times more powerful than the original 1953 Holden FJ on which it is loosely based. Obviously not intended for production, the EFIJY was a passionate side project (2003 to 2005) for some Holden Design team members otherwise dedicated to creating the all-new 2006 Commodore. The EFIJY is loaded with leading edge technologies which show off Holden Design style and creativity as well as fun and passion. *Hot Rod* magazine awarded it "Hot Rod of 2006". GM's stainless display platform with brilliant lighting enhanced the dazzling appearance of the EFIJY's show quality bodywork, paint and billet aluminum. People were surrounding the EFIJY four deep the first time we went to the GM display. This Buick look-a-like attracted as much attention as any display at the Detroit show.



The Buick Blackhawk was completed in time for the 2000 BCA National in Richmond. Some have called it the ultimate expression of Buick.