



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXXI, No.4

May 2012

Fully Restoring an Old Buick, Part III by Ted Becker

Hello again and welcome back to restoring an old Buick. In previous months, I discussed the sanity of such an undertaking and what is required to get started. I also told some stories of my more humorous and interesting adventures with my 57 Roadmaster convertible.

OK, so let's go out and get our project car and get started. What do you want to do and where to get started? Buicks have now been built for over 100 years so there are lots of periods to choose from. They go from the brass era, to the wooden-framed cars of the 20's and 30's, the straight eight cars leading up to the early 50's, then the nailhead years, then the Rivieras and other big body cars, then the Skylarks and muscle cars. All are wonderful and are cars we're proud to own. What you want is up to you. To each their own and no selection is wrong and none is perfect.

You also need to set a budget and determine how much time and money you are willing to devote to your project.

As far as the money part, I have never heard of a person who has restored a car within budget. Sort of like Santa Claus, a neat concept but it does not exist in the real world. Also be prepared to have a completed project that is worth less than the money spent to restore it. The cars at the Barrett Jackson auction that go for zillions of dollars are very special cars that are quite expensive and beyond the reach of most of us hobbyists. Don't go into a restoration with the intent of making money. Your restoration must be a labor of love with some sentimental attachment.

Finding the right car is usually a pretty simple endeavor, thanks to the internet. Good sources are EBay, Craigslist, Old Cars Weekly, Hemmings and local newspapers. Buying a car locally is always the much preferred route to go. Buying sight unseen

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Upcoming Events

**Board of Director's Meeting, Monday, May 14, 7 pm, John Lasinski's
Next Regular Meeting, Saturday, May 20, Press Box, Lunch & Meeting
after visit to Kemp Auto Show, 10:30 am, lunch at 12:00**

Olds Club Show at Tan Tar A, 1-3 June

See Page 5 for Details

Dues for the Current Year are Overdue, Please Send in Your Check!

Director's Letter

Happy Spring! The only thing that is holding us back now is the rain.

I would like to thank Steve Dodson for arranging the guest speaker at our last meeting and hope you all received some good information about car appraisals.

I heard the progressive garage tour was very nice in spite of the rain. Thanks to all who shared in the fun.

Don't forget the Club's display at Dave Sinclair Buick located on South Lindbergh Blvd. at Highway 21 on May 5. The display begins at 10 am.

Our next meeting May 20 will be held at the Kemp Auto Museum. Please be there by 10:30 a.m. to check out the show before lunch at the Press Box at 12:00.

A very special thank you goes to John Lasinski for stepping up to take over as your Director and Chet Palumbo for taking over John's duties as Secretary. (I will be helping out as needed.) I'm very pleased to see members in our Club taking action to better the Club for everyone.

Thanks and be safe!

Herb

Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2012

The April 2012 meeting was held on Monday, April 16th, at Fuddruckers. We had a good turnout with 2 guests, Al Mercer and his wife.

The Club meeting was facilitated by Herb Morris, Director.

The minutes of the March 2012 meeting were approved as printed in the Gazette.

April Birthdays – See Gazette

April Anniversaries – See Gazette

Members III – Larry Green

Treasurer's Report-

\$2396.63 Club Account, \$4413.76 Regional Account

Upcoming Events

April

- 2 Board of Directors Meeting, Pete Nathan's
- 8 HCCM Easter Show – Forest Park
- 16 Regular Monthly Meeting, Fuddruckers, Sunset Hills
- 22 Progressive Cruise/Garage Tours, ending at Chet Palumbo's House in New Melle and lunch at Los Cabos Mexican Restaurant.

May

- 5 Display at Dave Sinclair Buick
- 14 Board Meeting – John Lasinski's House, 7:00
- 20 Kemp Auto Show and Monthly Meeting/Lunch at the Press Box, 10:30

June

- 1,2 Oldsmobile Show at Tan-Tar-A
- 16 Hazelwood Baptist Car Show – FREE, pre-register at hazelwoodbaptistchurch.com, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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May Birthdays

Judy Driscoll
Rachel Gehm
Nancy Longworth
Susan Palazzolo

Jimmy Gehm
Cathleen Horst
Dennis McDonough
Barb Thomas

May Anniversaries

Steve & Sherri Dodson
Chet & Jeanne Palumbo
Jim & Karen Poole

John & Kitty Lasinski
Vic & Patricia Panus
Bill & Maggi Webster

***** Attendance Incentives *****

At the recent calendar planning meeting, the members present decided that a more formal system of “points” awarded to members for attendance at meetings and events might increase member participation.

Members would be awarded one point for each meeting or event they attended plus one point for bringing a collectible Buick (a Buick eligible for BCA judging) to that meeting or event. Members would be awarded two points for organizing an event or getting a speaker for a meeting or event. Members who submit an article (one full page or longer) for the Gazette would be awarded two points.

At our annual holiday party, the member with the highest number of points would receive free meals for

the member and spouse/guest and paid club dues for the upcoming year. The member with the second highest number of points would receive a gift (TBD) and paid club dues. The third highest points total would receive paid club dues and the fourth and fifth highest point totals would receive a gift (TBD).

At some event during the year (not announced ahead of time), the members with the most and second most points would receive a gift (TBD).

Also, at one or more of our events which include a meal (the particular event not announced ahead of time), the club would contribute (\$TBD) toward the cost of each meal.

Everyone will receive a Gateway Chapter business card and points will be notated by punches on the card with a unique punch shape at meetings and events.

2012 CLUB CALENDAR

May

- 5 Display at Sinclair
- 20 Visit Kemp Auto Show, lunch at the Press Box and Monthly meeting

June

- 1-3 Oldsmobile Club TanTarA Show
- 23 Cookout at Love Park and meeting
- 27-30 BCA National Show - Concord, NC

July

- 14 or 15 Cruise to Brussels, IL, Dinner at the Whitman Hotel, Meeting and winery visit in Grafton
- 28 Cruise to car museum in Fulton, Mo , lunch

August

- 20 Regular Monthly Meeting - ??

September

- 6-8 Heartland Regional, Holiday Inn, Airport West
- 9 Wheels in Motion Show, West Port Plaza
- 17 Regular Monthly Meeting - ??

October

- 6 Fall oil change
- 15 Regular Monthly Meeting - ??
- 20 Fall Color Tour

November

- 3 Visit Schlafy microbrewery for a tour and lunch
- 19 Regular Monthly Meeting - ??

December

- 1 Lunch, Meeting, Toys for Tots at Old Spaghetti Factory

Please Pay Your Dues ASAP. Send Your Check for \$15 to Pete Nathan at #1 Huntleigh Trails Lane, St. Louis, MO 63131.

Fully Restoring an Old Buick Part III Cont'

through EBay or the like has created more horror stories than you even want to think about. Start with the classified section in the local newspaper and then try the local Craigslist.

It is always good to start with as good a car as possible. In the end, the money will probably be in your favor if you start with a nice car and the work will be much less. Unless it is your intention to have a project to learn from or to derive satisfaction, try to get a nice car. A body off restoration produces wonderful results, but is a whole lot of work.

Body style is also important. The cost to restore a 4 door sedan is almost the same as for a convertible or a 2 door hardtop. The end value, however, is nowhere even close. Unless you have some sentimental attachment to a 4 door sedan, they are good to avoid from a finished car value standpoint.

Disassembling an old car is really a guy kind of a thing to do. Even though it may be hard work, it is very fun and is satisfying. What is not so fun is the reassembly process, especially if you do not know or remember how to do it. Take lots and lots and lots of pictures as you take your car apart. Tag or otherwise mark your parts. Get a bunch of Sharpies and sandwich bags and other tags and use them liberally. Draw diagrams of how the parts fit together. Show orientation of parts as they come apart. Remember right side or left side. Photograph, document, mark, tag, draw, etc, etc, etc. It is a small effort up front that will pay rich dividends as the car goes back together.

Buick has made fine shop manuals through the years. Get a set of manuals for the year car you are working on. Here is a good place to start to find your manual: <http://www.oldcarmanualproject.com/>. Another good source is EBay. There are both print and digital manuals for sale all the time. Get your manual and you'll be glad you did.

A big decision that must be made is what you will do yourself and what you will farm out. Some items are beyond almost all restorers and that decision is pretty easy. These might include: radio repair, gauge repair, upholstery, chrome plating, stainless steel polishing,

sand blasting, painting and transmission repair. If these are tasks that you can perform yourself, you are in a very good position. In fact, these are skills that you can advertise and sell to help get money for your own project.

A quick word about painting--yes that is something that you can do yourself and many do. However, please be aware that the new paints can do serious harm to your respiratory system and must be applied while using the very best respirator available. The environment for painting is also critical to assure a smooth finish with no airborne contaminants falling on the freshly applied paint. Body shops have all the right equipment and application techniques and I would recommend using them for this process. After all, the quality of the paint job is probably the most visible feature of a nice car when presented in any form to the public.

And another quick word about plating. Chrome plating is a very expensive part of most Buick restorations. My chosen vintage, 1957, is especially intense with chrome plating expenses. I have tried several sources for my work and had various experiences. The plating process has fallen under close scrutiny by the EPA and OSHA and many old line plating companies no longer exist. My preferred source is Highline Plating in Cuba, Missouri and they do a very good job for me.

I have also used other places with good success. Be aware that the plating process is very labor intensive and very hard work. You may send 10 parts to a plater and be fully satisfied, and then the 11th part does not come out to your satisfaction. That is the nature of the process since it is totally manual and you are at the mercy of the person doing your job on that particular day. To give you an idea as to the extent of my experience with this process, I even received a Christmas card from Highline this past year in appreciation for all the business I have given them. How about that??

Speaking of the internet, this is a fairly new source of information that you will find invaluable. I like to use the Buick Club of America's website (www.buickclub.org). This is a good source of parts

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Fully Restoring an Old Buick Part III Cont')

and cars, but also for exchange of technical knowledge and dialogue. I have heard of public forums as "shared ignorance". Well, yes, that can be, however, I have found the Buick site to be pretty reliable. Beware when you see an article from a guy telling about the 100 MPG carburetors that the oil companies are buying up and hoarding. If someone believes that, then you need to look for a different source of information.

Most people can be very helpful and you will develop friendships with others who are walking the mile in your shoes. You can share your thoughts or experiences and probably some left over parts that you may not need. Some of the guys I have met through this source are some very crafty and creative people. Another very good source is www.v8buick.com. This site is especially good for finding services that you may need as you do along.

By being a member of the Gateway Buick Club, you are also privy to another source of knowledge. There are guys in the club from many different backgrounds

and experiences. Come to the meetings and start asking questions. I think you'll be surprised at how helpful your fellow club members can be.

Another source that you may not have considered are some of the TV programs that deal with cars and restoration and project building. American Restoration, Two Guys Garage, American Chopper, Chop Cut Rebuild, Hot Rod TV, Gearz and Overhauled. These shows tend to get pretty much into drama and screaming obscenities at each other, but they do demonstrate skills and techniques that will help you as you go along. Watch them with an open mind and try to pick up on how they do their projects. So, as Stacey David from Gearz says, "Get out there in your garage and start working on something." You'll be glad you did and you can share your experiences with the rest of us.

Hope you enjoyed this series of articles and have learned something from them. I'd like to write more, but I need to get out in the garage and fire up my MIG welder on the floor pan. See you at the club meetings.

Gearhead Ted

Upcoming Events

Board of Director's Meeting. Monday, May 14, 7 pm at John Lasinski's house, 440 Avalon View Ct., Fenton, MO 63026. To get to John's house, take I-270 to west on I-44, and then take exit 272 toward MO-141/Valley Park/Fenton. At the end of the long ramp (also called N. Highway Dr.), take a left onto MO-141/Meramec Station Road. After 0.3 miles, turn right onto Meramec Station Road, then after 0.7 miles, turn left onto Smizer Mill Road. Take the first right onto Avalon Hills Drive, then after 0.5 miles turn right on Avalon Chase Drive, and after 0.2 miles turn left onto Avalon View Drive. Take the first left onto Avalon View Ct. John's house is on the right.

May Regular Meeting. Saturday, May 20, at The Press Box Restaurant, 1095 Chesterfield Parkway East, for lunch at 12:00 and our May meeting after a visit to the Kemp Auto Show, at 16955 Chesterfield Airport Road at 10:00 am. To get to the Kemp Auto Museum, take Us 40/I-64 West to exit 17, then a left at the end of the ramp onto Boone's Crossing St. Then take the first available left onto Chesterfield Airport road, after approximately 0.7 miles the Kemp will be on your left. To get to The Press Box from the museum, continue east on Chesterfield Airport Road to the entrance ramp to I-64 East, then take exit 19B back onto Chesterfield Airport Road. After about 0.3 miles, take a left at the traffic light onto Clarkson Road/Olive Blvd. for about 0.4 miles to a slight right onto Chesterfield Parkway East. After about 0.4 miles, you will arrive at The Press Box.

Olds Club Show at Tan tar A. Friday, June 1 thru Sunday June 3. See the registration form in the March Gazette. Deadline for hotel reservations at the show rate is May 1.

FOR SALE

1988 Reatta. Original owner, VIN xxxxx00425, red/saddle, 81K miles, new tires. Has the special suede/leather interior which is near perfect. Original documents, some advertising signage. Left headlight motor needs repair. Asking \$7500. Call anytime, Vic, 636-394-2735.

Huge Quantity of 1964 Buick Riviera parts For Sale. Donated to our chapter by a Buick enthusiast, proceeds will be used to fund chapter activities, including the 2012 Heartland Regional Show. Call Paul Meyer, 314-574-9853, ASAP for the Rivi parts you need.

Car Wanted. 1937 through the 1950s, ready to drive, # 3 condition or better. Call Jerry, 314-956-4131.

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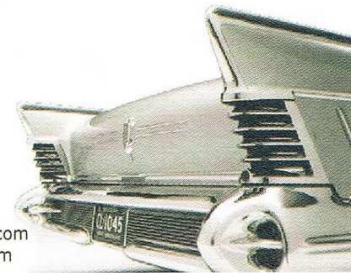
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Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2012(Cont')

Old Business

Magnetic Club Signs - \$18.00 ea.
Belt Buckles

New Business

Al Mercer gave an excellent presentation on Automobile Appraising.

There will be a Board meeting May14th, 7 p.m. at John Lasinski's home, 440 Avalon View Ct., Fenton, MO 63026. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The incentive program for participation in meetings and events is printed in the Gazette.

2012 Club dues of \$ 15.00 can be paid now. Please see Pete Nathan.

50/50 drawing – Culus

Next Regular Meeting:

May 20th, Kemp Auto Museum to observe their Concourse show and lunch and meeting afterward at the Press Box.

Other Events Around the Area

Fenton Cruise, Life Christian Church, first Friday of every month April through October.

Gateway GTO/Behlmann Buick-GMC North County Cruise, second Friday of every month, April through October, 6 pm to 9 pm. DJ music, 50/50 to benefit Friends of Kids with Cancer. Behlmann Buick-GMC, I-270 and McDonnell Blvd, Hazelwood.

Hazelwood Baptist Church Show, Saturday, June 16.

Route 66 Classic Car Cruise, Saturday, August 11. Music by Sh-Boom 7-10 pm. Register 11 am on, at Crestwood Court, corner of Sappington & Watson, Crestwood.

Photos from the HCCM Easter Show, April 8.



Kroening, Rev. Robert W.



Beloved husband and best friend of the late Edna W. Kroening; former husband of the late Patricia B. Kroening, father of the late Cynthia L. Tillery and of Marjorie L. (Jackson) Yarborough; Irving, Texas and of the late Richard W. Kroening. Former pastor of St. James Evangelical Church at Stony Hill and of Ebenezer "Stone" UCC Church near Gerald, MO. Retired Pastor Emeritus of Ebenezer "Stone" Church.

Former club member Bob Kroening passed away recently. Bob moved to Texas in the 1990s to be with his family, and later moved to the Veteran's Home in Herman, MO. The club visited Bob at the Veteran's home in October 2008 and presented him with the Buick hat he had requested.

Photos from the April 22nd Garage Tour.

Barb Knudsen's Cord under restoration



Barb Knudsen's Packard open car



Adam Martin's 1958 Limited under restoration

Front view of Chet Palumbo's Buick street rod project

Buick Club of America

2012 Heartland Regional Meet Registration

September 6 – 8, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri
Hosted by the St. Louis Gateway Chapter

Members Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 BCA #: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____
 Your E-mail address _____
What names should we print on your nametags?
 Yours: _____ Spouse/guest: _____
 Your Chapter Affiliation (if any): _____

Our Host Hotel – Holiday Inn Airport West, In Earth City

3400 Rider Trail South
 St. Louis, MO 63045

Call 1-800-465-4329 to make reservation,
 mention **group code "HRB"** and **group name "Heartland Regional Buick Meet"**.

OR

Book on-line with group code "HRB"
 at: www.holidayinn.com/stairportwest
 Check-in: 3:00 PM, Check-out: 12:00 Noon
Rooms: \$82.99 + ~15% tax - single to quad
 • Rate applies to reservations by 08/13/2012
 • Rate applies 2 days before & after event
 • Rate includes a complimentary full hot breakfast buffet in Malone's Grill and Pub with coupon for each guest in room.

100-Point Judging through year 2000 models for 11 Classes:
 A.(1903-'40) B.('41-'49) C.('50 -'60)
 D.('61-'69) E.('70 -'80) F.('81 -2000)
 G.Reattas, H. Rivieras, I. Modified,
 J. Turbo Regals, K. '65-'75 GSs

Vehicle 1
 Class _____
 Judged ___ Displayed ___ (check one)
 Yr. _____ model _____
 Body Style _____

Vehicle 2
 Class _____
 Judged ___ Displayed ___ (check one)
 Yr. _____ model _____
 Body Style _____

Meet Registration Choices

- **Registration cutoff - Postmarked by 08/13/2012. No registration at the gate.**
 - **Choose at least one registration category. You may choose more than one.**
- Non-BCA participant (Display only - one car) \$30 _____
- Member only (Member and Guest w/o car) \$20 _____
- Judged Car (1st Car, Member and Guest) \$35 _____
- Displayed Car (1st Car, Member and Guest) \$25 _____
- Additional Cars (Judged or Displayed) \$25 _____
- Swap Meet Registration (10' x 20' space minimum) Qty. ___ @ \$25 ea. _____
- Car Corral Registration (Car for sale): Qty. ___ @ \$25 ea. _____
- Will you need parking space for a trailer? (Yes/No) _____**

Show and Tour Schedule

Thursday Sept. 6 10 AM Meet Registration Opens
 Thursday Sept. 6 7 PM - ? Welcoming Party - Hors d'oeuvres, & beverages at no charge - # attending _____

Self-Guided Tours:
 Thur.-Sat. Sept. 6-8 10*AM-3*PM Historic St. Charles via hotel shuttle - #attending Thur.____, Fri. _____, Sat. _____
 Friday Sept. 7 9 AM-3* PM Driving Tour to Missouri Botanical Garden -(\$8.00 ea. at entrance, 12 & under free)
 (*) **Departure & return times are an estimate** # attending _____

Saturday Sept. 8 9:30 AM 100-point Judging and tabulation begins
 Saturday Sept. 8 1 - 2:30 PM Regional Meeting
 Saturday Sept. 8 6 -7 PM Cocktail Hour - Cash Bar prior to Awards Banquet
 Saturday Sept. 8 7 PM- ? Banquet - Beef Qty.____, Chicken Qty. _____, Fish Qty.____ @ \$26.00 ea. Total \$ _____

Got questions???? Contact:

Herb Morris – Show Director
 636-296-9147 reatta90@sbcglobal.net
Bill Landers – Judging, Registration
 636-916-3310 walanders@hotmail.com
Pete Nathan – Hotel, trophies, shirts,
 tours 314-413-2966 phnauto@aol.com
Ed Keil – Hotel, hospitality, tours
 314-837-8248 edkeil@att.net
Chet Palumbo – Show Field 636-398-
 4336 cpalumbo@centurytel.net
Paul Meyer – Swap Meet
 314-291-6770 42buickman@gmail.com
Mary Ann Meyer – Hospitality Room
 314-291-6770 marymeyer42@gmail.com

Reserve-A-Shirt

Purchase a show shirt now. We'll have it for you when you arrive!

White Polo shirts, 50/50 blend w/pocket and valve-in-head logo.
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

\$17.00 S-XL
 \$19.00 XXL, \$21.00 XXXL

Size _____ Qty. _____ Total _____
 Size _____ Qty. _____ Total _____
 Total Order _____

Include a picture of your car, Preferably email the image to: adammb@buickpartsdirectory.com

TOTAL AMOUNT
 (Include Registration, Banquet and Shirts) \$ _____

Mail this form with your check or money order payable to: St. Louis Gateway Chapter BCA, 2012 to the following address:

William Landers
66 Summit Point Ct.
Saint Charles, MO 63301

The *GATEWAY GAZETTE* is a monthly newsletter, free to paid members of the St. Louis Gateway Chapter of the Buick Club of America. Articles, technical information, For Sale and Want Ads, photos, restoration sagas and coming events are welcomed, but must be submitted by the first Monday of the month to assure inclusion in the next issue.

Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30. Membership is renewable on May 1. Members joining between January 1 and April 30 are paid up through the next April. Dues are \$15 per year for the local chapter. Contact Pete Nathan, Treasurer. See address below. Current dues for the national club are \$50 per year, payable to: Buick Club of America, P.O. Box 360775, Columbus, OH 43236-0775.

The Gateway Chapter meets monthly on the THIRD MONDAY of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and guests are welcome to attend. We meet at various restaurants around St. Louis and most members and guests try to arrive by 6:30 or earlier to have dinner before the meeting.

For more information, our local mailing addresses are as follows:

Director:	Herb Morris (314)221-8138	2005 Dohack Dr Arnold, MO 63010	reatta90@sbcglobal.net
Asst. Director:	Paul Meyer (314) 574-9853	11694 Mark Twain Lane Bridgeton, MO 63044	42buickman@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Pete Nathan (314) 413-2966	#1 Huntleigh Trails Lane St. Louis, MO 63131	phnauto@aol.com
Secretary:	John Lasinski (636) 225-9850	440 Avalon View Ct. Fenton, MO 63026	jlasinski@yahoo.com
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Web Site:	www.gatewaybca.org		
Webmaster:	Adam Martin (314) 713-1262	1212 Cloverbrook St. Charles, MO 63304	adamm@buickpartsdirectory.com