

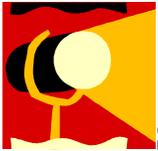
Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXVII, No.11 November 2008

Member Spotlight



Spotlight on Paul Meyer



This month's "Member Spotlight" focuses on Paul Meyer. Paul has this thing about 1942 Buick's--sometimes I feel he has cornered the market on them. Paul currently owns three 1942 driver Buicks, a Special convertible, a 4-door Roadmaster with a very interesting history, and the only 1942 Buick truck to have been built by Buick. He also has four other 1942 Buick's, some waiting to be restored and some that have just found a home for now.

When asked which car was his favorite of all time, he said it was between his 1942 Buick truck and the 1939 Buick Century with the sun/moon roof. The reason he likes these vehicles is the looks and lines of the cars and the fact that they are very rare. As far as his favorite car to drive, it has to be his 1963 Buick Wildcat Convertible. Paul got bit by the old car bug in 1992 and has been collecting old cars ever since. The first old car that he owned and restored was a 1971 Buick Riviera. I think it is safe to say Paul is truly a Buick man!

Paul joined the Gateway Chapter and BCA in 1993 and has held the office of Assistant Director, Director and Board Member-At-Large of our club. On the national level Paul served on the BCA national board of directors for 8 ½ years,

Continued on Page 2

Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 7, 11 am, Lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory
17384 Chesterfield Rd**

**Sunday, January 4, 3 pm, Holiday Party & Meeting at Nicoletti's
1366 Big Bend Square**

NO GAZETTE IN JANUARY

Director's Message

Hi All

Well winter seems to be here. Thanksgiving is upon us and it's time to start those winter projects. My plans include a backup fuel pump for my '55. I've got to get it ready for The Buick National in Colorado Springs!

Hope everyone can make it to the Brunch / Lunch on Dec 7th. We will be collecting toys for TOYS FOR TOTS and also CHECKS /MONEY for Shriner's Children's Hospitals.

Your holiday party as last year will be in January. Hopefully everyone will make it and enjoy the company of fellow club members. I hope to have a list of activities for 2009 together by then, or maybe I should say John Lasinski will as he volunteered to compile it. Hopefully you will add the dates to your calendar early so we will see you during 2009!

Next April we will elect club officers for the following two years. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving, please contact any officer or member of the board to find out what the position entails!

See you on the 7th!

Happy Buicking!

Bob

Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2008

Location: The November 2008 meeting was held on Thursday, November 6th, at Hometown Buffet. Roughly 18 members and 1 guest, Ron Hager, from Track Labs attended.

The Club meeting was facilitated by Bob Brasses, Director.

Minutes from the October 2008 meeting were accepted as printed in the *Gateway Gazette*.

Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2008 (Continued)

Pete Nathan was present to give the Treasurer's Report.

Past Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 2 | Meeting at Shriner's Hospital |
| Oct. 4 | Route 66 Show |
| Oct. 4 | Celebrate the Hill Show |
| Oct. 4 | Alton Dealer Show |
| Oct. 5 | Kunz Plantation |
| Oct. 12 | Manor Grove Homecoming Show |
| Oct. 18 | Herman Winery Tour & Bob Kroening visit |
| Oct. 19 | MOT Fall Color Caravan |
| Nov. 1 | Bob Huff's for picnic and barn tour |

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Nov. 20 | Board Of Directors Meeting, Pete Nathan's House 7:00 |
| Dec. 12 | December Luncheon – Old Spaghetti Factory 11:00, Toys For Tots, Shriner's hospital |
| Jan. 4 | Holiday Party – Nicoletti's 3:00pm, \$5.00 contribution, Club pays rest |

New Business

"Member of the Year Award" in honor of John Waltz. Nominees are needed.

Would like volunteer for Activity Chairman.

Members Ill

Jonnie King

Next Regular Meeting:

January 4th, in conjunction with the holiday party, 3:00 pm, Nicoletti's

The 50-50 drawing was won by Pete Nathan.

Member Spotlight (Continued)

holding every job but secretary. He was president of the BCA for two years. Paul brought honor to not only the Gateway Chapter, but also the entire Mid-West Region as BCA President. Thanks, Paul, for a job well done!

Some of Paul's hobbies have been farming (done as a hobby), collecting and restoring old farm tractors, old guns as well as antiques. Paul still has a sizeable collection of 60 old tractors that he keeps "down on the farm".

Paul graduated from Valle High School at St. Genevieve, MO and shortly afterward joined the US Air Force and served his country for four years. Paul was trained in the Air Force in the field of electronics where he worked on B-52 bombers in Electronic Counter Measures (radar jamming equipment).

After leaving the Air Force Paul worked at McDonnell Aircraft as an electronic inspector. Paul said he could only take that kind of work--doing nothing-- for so long and had to get a real job. So, in 1965, Paul began painting and after doing that for three years, went into painting estimating. In 1985, he started his own painting business. And now 23 years later Paul has retired, well almost, you know Paul--he can't just sit around doing nothing.

Paul and Mary Ann have been married for 45 years. Paul said Mary Ann lived just one house away from him when in high school and that Mary Ann is the only girl he ever dated. Good choice Paul – sorry about that Mary Ann! They have three children and 4 ½ grand children.

Paul said the older he gets the more patriotic he gets, well Paul that's not a bad way to be. This country needs more people like you and thanks for serving your country.

Contributed by Steve Dodson

December 7th Lunch

Don't forget to bring donations for *Toys For Tots* and Shriner's Hospital or mail to Pete Nathan.

Notes From Bill Bicknell

My 1954 Skylark

The place was California, the time was the mid-1960s and I was in college. My daily transportation was a 1955 Buick Century 4Dr hardtop. I had already been interested in Buicks, buying my first, a 1929 sedan, when I was 13 years old. One of my activities was regularly visiting junkyards (I still like that term in place of today's politically correct term) and one day I discovered a 1954 Skylark in forlorn condition in Palo Alto. (Forlorn by California standards--the same car in the rust belt means put a new battery in it and drive it.)

The convertible top had been down for months and it was missing the right door panel. The price was \$175. I stopped by another Skylark owner's home on the way back and he said he knew of the car and was considering buying it. The temptation was too great, so I skipped school the next day, bought it and towed it home.

The car had 1959 Cadillac tail lights installed in the tail fins, a standard transmission with a crude floor shift and holes cut in the frame for dual exhaust. The holes in the frame were so large that I thought it was a structural problem. Within a few weeks I had found another 1954 Skylark in a junkyard in Modesto, California and bought it for \$70.

After many hours of labor switching the bodies on the frames and putting all the correct parts together from the two cars I had a complete running 1954 Skylark which served as my daily transportation for about 10 years. It was blue with blue upholstery except for the right door panel that came from the yellow car. The car always brought attention, but few people ever noticed the different color door panel.

It was a good looking car, but not a show car, and I used it every day. I even welded a trailer hitch to the frame and it was my "tow car" for my other projects. If you remember back in the 60s, it was common place to push cars to start them. So when by college friends needed that service, the Skylark was the

Notes From Bill Bicknell(Continued)

vehicle that did the job. There is nothing like a Dynaflo to push cars smoothly. So the front bumper always had a few scratches on it. (Anybody want to use their Skylark today for a push car?)

One of my biggest regrets was selling the car for \$850 as the springboard to get my first Cord. My heart is still with Buicks and I am currently in the process of assembling another 1954 Skylark.

Bill Bicknell, BCA #738

FOR SALE

1974 Chevrolet truck: ¾ ton, 454 engine, AT, AC, PS, PB, 3+3 cab, 8-ft bed. Colorado truck with almost no rust. \$1500 OBO. Antique vehicle trades considered. Bill Bicknell, 573-364-8586.

FREE: Approx. 2 dozen metal drawers, about 4”X6”X24”, some may be bigger. Just come and get them. Paul Meyer, 314-574-9853.

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Report on Jonnie King

Jonnie King was seriously injured in his home several weeks ago when he attempted to prevent one of his cars from running into the other. He had a broken jaw, which had to be screwed together and wired shut, a slashed hand and a dislocated and broken shoulder.

Jonnie then had surgery on his shoulder on November 10th. His surgeon said this was one of her greatest challenges in that she had to re-break the shoulder and piece it back together with plates,

screws, and the medical equivalent of "bondo". Three days after the surgery, his shoulder, arm, and hand swelled up to twice normal size. Jonnie reported he is doing some better now.

His jaw is still wired shut so he can only drink fluids and things which can be put in a blender. He may be in this condition until mid-to-late December.

The healing process on his shoulder will take 3 to 6 months and he probably won't regain full range of motion in his right arm. You can reach jonnie at 314-427-2257 or jonnieking@sbcglobal.net.

Winter Events

Jeff Watkins reports the following upcoming events and provided the following page from a past newsletter:

Swap Meet, December 28, 2008, 8 am -1:30 pm, Bell-Claire Exposition Building, at highways 159 and 15.

Swap Meet, Petrolania, Automobilia, and Advertising Items, Boone County Fairgrounds multi-purpose building, I-70 exit 128A, 3.5 miles north on US 63.

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 next-to-last Thursday 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 \$40 per year, payable to: Buick Club of America, P.O. Box 360775, Columbus, OH 43236-0775.

The Gateway Chapter meets monthly on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and guests are welcome to attend. During the warmer months, May through October, we meet at Fenton Bar & Grill, 701 Rudder Road, Fenton, MO. During the winter months, November through April, we move indoors to various restaurants around St. Louis.

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

Director:	Bob Brasses (636) 343-1507	911 Woodway Circle Fenton, MO 63026	bbrasses@earthlink.net
Asst. Director:	Adam Martin (314) 713-1262	1212 Cloverbrook St. Charles, MO 63304	adamm@buickpartsdirectory.com
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