



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXVII, No.10 October 2008

Manor Grove Home Show

What a beautiful day for a car show! Steve Dodson was asked by the Manor Grove people to put together a car show of 12 to 15 cars to celebrate Manor Groves homecoming and continue their 100th Anniversary celebration. The theme was to be 1950s. The Manor Grove people set up a 1950's style drive-in with a drive-in screen and speakers on posts set between cars. The cars were parked as if they were in a drive-in, all facing the screen.

The residents had a good time judging the old cars and lots of fun enjoying the entertainment. Hot dogs, fries, ice cream, cotton candy and soda were available. "Smash", the DJ from radio FM 103.3 acted as master of ceremonies. Smash gave away a number of tickets to a Beatle's show at Westport, particularly to winners of a "twist" contest.

Our club was joined by some members of the Gateway City Car Club (AACA) and the Moolah Shriners Antique Cars Club. Our own Franco Palmeri garnered the votes for the first place trophy and Pete Nathan was voted second place. Every car owner was also awarded a participation trophy. Our club received a donation for our participation as well.

Text and Photos contributed by Steve Dodson



**Next Meeting – November 6th
Home Town Buffet, 12228 St Charles Rock Road, 7 pm**

Director's Message

Well the club had a busy month. However, turnout at all events was fair to poor. The best turnout was the 30th Anniversary party at the Kunz Plantation and even that was low based on past years.

We had a trip to Herman to visit a former club member Bob Kroenig. Bob indicated he really enjoyed the visit. We had 5 cars and 5 families represented. The Retirement home was interesting in that the cafeteria was decorated in an automotive theme. There was a complete model "T" Ford and the walls were covered with old auto related signs.

After leaving the retirement home we headed over to Stone Hill winery. The weather was a bit cool but we had a great selection of food and lots of good conversation.

Several participated in the MOT Fall Color Tour. Hard to beat good friends and all you can eat lunch!

FOR the Next Meeting!!!:

Give some thought to what days in January will work best for the holiday party. John Lasinski is getting available dates.

Any thoughts on what to do at the party -- gift exchange, etc?

Give some thought to what activities you want to see next year. We'll start compiling a list and use it next spring when we start assembling the calendar.

Any ideas to boost attendance would be most welcome.

Next meeting we have a guest speaker from Track Lab. He will be discussing tuning on a dynamometer and several diagnostic methods.

See you at the next meeting

Bob

Meeting Minutes, October 2, 2008

Location: The October 2008 meeting was held on Thursday, October 2, at Shriners Hospital. Roughly 15 members and 1 guest (Dick Roseland) attended.

The Club meeting was facilitated by Bob Brasses, Director.

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

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

Past Events

Oct. 5 Kunz Plantation, Club's 30th
Anniversary

Upcoming Events

Oct. 12 Manor Grove Homecoming Show –
Need 12-15 cars
Oct. 18 Herman Winery Tour
Oct. 19 MOT Fall Color Caravan
Nov. 1 Bob Huff's for Picnic and Tour.
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at I-255 and
Koch Hospital Rd.

Old Business

None.

New Business

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

Members Ill

Herb Morris had surgery to install a stent to correct a heart blockage. Gale Simon had a car accident, in which she broke her wrist and sustained bruises. Helene McDonough had surgery to remove cancerous material from her jugular vein.

Next Regular Meeting:

November Meeting –November 6, Hometown Buffet at 7:00 pm.

A "50-50" drawing was not done.

Meeting at Shriner's Hospital

Steve Dodson arranged to have our October meeting at Shriner's Hospital on South Lindbergh. The first item on the agenda was a very interesting tour of the hospital conducted by Susan, an extremely enthusiastic member of the staff. Susan had spent some time at the hospital as a child and was an avid supporter.

After the tour, we had a very good, but very inexpensive dinner prepared by the hospital staff. The turnout was relatively low, so there was food for seconds and even take-outs. A short meeting followed dinner.



Photos by Steve Dodson

Club's 30th Anniversary at Kunz Plantation

Our club celebrated the 30th anniversary of our founding at Bruce and Kathy Kunz's Plantation on Sunday, October 5. Turnout was somewhat low in light of the significance of the occasion and the good times we always have as guests of Bruce and Kathy.

Ed Keil provided the hot dogs, brats, and burgers and soda. Attendees brought a dish to share. Ed also procured a cake to celebrate the occasion.

After the buffet, Bruce had the Buicks present pose for pictures and some people found the pumpkins in the adjacent fields too tempting to pass up.

Thanks to Bruce and Kathy for their hospitality.



Photos by editor

Notes From Bill Bicknell

I attended the Springfield swap meet 8/21 – 8/23 and set up as a vendor. This was the first major event I have attended since moving to Missouri. While I did sell a few things, the main benefit was to meet people and to let them know there was a new Buick guy around. That didn't take long. I quickly made the acquaintance of two owners of 1953 Buick Skylarks. One, Lowell Fay, was a previous customer from when I owned a restoration shop. He recently purchased another Skylark at the Cape Girardeau auction and has asked me to fix a few things wrong with the restoration.

The second person just acquired a Skylark that had been in the woods for about 20 years. The condition was a disaster, but all the Skylark unique parts were there. I explained which Super and Roadmaster parts could be used to restore the forlorn Skylark. So my first attendance at the Springfield meet allowed me to see two 1953 Skylarks in one night. Not a bad day!

Every year over the Labor Day weekend, the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg meet is held in Auburn, Indiana. There are more true classics in one spot at the same time for this event than anywhere else on earth-- probably close to 200 cars. I am a Cord owner and judge for the 810 – 812 Cords. The weather in Auburn over the years has been the full spectrum from scorching hot to snow flurries. This year it was beautiful, 75 degrees with a clear blue sky.

I did my Cord judging and then spent a couple hours looking at the other Cords as well as the Auburns and Duesenbergs. Each year there is a featured car. This year it was the Auburn Salon, a fancy version of the Auburn with a split windshield and some extra chrome plus an extra dip in the body contour. This was sort of like the things done to the 1953 Skylark. I hope to have my Cord at Auburn for the meet next year.

The ACD event at Auburn on Labor Day weekend should not be confused with the Kruse auction that same weekend in the same town. They are two separate events.

STANLEY'S STORY

At the August 7th chapter meeting we were invited by Bill Bicknell, a member of the Stanley Steamer Club and the BCA to go to the Holiday Inn at Six Flags to view the Stanley Steamer cars that were there for a club tour. Supposedly, there were to be 17 cars there.

After the meeting, Ed and Nancy Keil, Mary Ann and I drove to the hotel to see the sights. Unfortunately, all but one of the cars were parked in their trailers, because it had just rained very heavily. We saw one man cleaning the ramp to his trailer using something that smelled like Simple Green, but he called it Simple Blue. The steam mixed with steamer oil makes for one slippery mess. Anyway, we had a nice conversation and then looked at a huge touring car with no side curtains. It must have gotten drenched.

Now, back to the chapter meeting. Our most esteemed Gazette editor, Bill Landers, commented that he is not getting much help with articles etc. for the paper. At the time, I didn't think much about it, but then I realized that the more he has to put in the paper the better it will be. The wheels were beginning to turn.

As I was working in my garage at my shop, I happened to remember something that was said by the man cleaning his trailer. He said they were going to go to the Butterfly House on Friday, the 8th. So, I figured that maybe I would just go there, since it isn't a long way from my place.

When I arrived, four Stanleys were there waiting for several more to come. I had a nice conversation with Jack and Ann Doerr from the St. Louis area, who just happened to be the owners of the huge touring car that had no side-curtains. Jack said that it didn't get much water in it, despite the downpour. It must have rained straight down.

As I was standing there, a yellow Stanley with 4 occupants pulled up in front of me and I heard, "Hey, you're the guy I talked to last night from the Buick Club." What a coincidence! This 1911 or 1912
(Continued on Page 5)

2008 Calendar

November

- 1 11:00 am Bob Huff's for picnic and tour.
Meet at 11 am at I270 and Koch
Hospital Road
- 6 7:30 pm Regular Monthly Meeting

December

- 4 7:30 pm Regular Monthly Meeting

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Stanley's Story (Continued)

model was owned by John Linderman and his wife, from near Hartford, Connecticut. The three passengers stepped down and John asked, "Do you want to go for a ride?" My answer: "Do you think I'm going to say 'no'?" What a fun ride! All you hear is the movement of the pistons. There are two of them, side by side, double acting, meaning they actually work in both directions. Unlike our vehicle's pistons which only work in one direction.

John steered with his left hand and operated a lever with his right. The car is a direct drive vehicle (no clutch) and has brakes (somewhat) he said. There are three gauges to watch, and a water dial to watch closely. John showed me the boiler, which looked like an old-fashioned washing machine tub under the hood. He warned all onlookers not to touch anything because its all hot--approximately 600 degrees at times and he had a big burn on the inside of his arm to prove it.

I asked how many miles per gallon of water and he indicated about one mile per gallon. Sure hope he doesn't have to buy bottled water, it would be higher than gas. After talking to them for a while,

I decided it is just plain boring to drive one of our internal combustion vehicles. The Steamers have so many things to watch and then they break down, run out of water, blow high- pressure steam lines etc. Sounds like a lot of fun.

I decided to call Jack Doerr and ask about this one mile per gallon of water. Well, it all depends on the type of boiler you have. If you have a "non-condensing" engine, the one-gallon per mile is about right. However, you may not even get that much, depending on the terrain. Those cars have from 35- up to 70-gallon water tanks.

Cars that have "condensing" engines, like Jacks, run the steam through a dry radiator where it condenses back to water and is used again and again. They get much better mileage out of a gallon of water. He said that he used about a half tank of water from 6 Flags to Faust Park and his tank holds 18 gallons. He said that he usually gets from 5 to 8 miles to a gallon, and if the terrain is flat, he can go from 50 to 100 miles on one tank. Jack also said he uses a 50/50 mixture of gas and diesel fuel in his 1919 model.

I personally think I will stick with the cars that use strictly "gasoline", no matter what the price.

Contributed by Paul Meyer

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 \$35 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 summer months, June through October, we meet at Chuck-A-Burger Drive-in, 9025 St. Charles Rock Road, just west of I-170. During the winter months, November through April, we move indoors at 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
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