



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

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June 2007

PERSONAL PROFILE: BILL LANDERS

While we are probably approaching “old-timer” status in the club having joined in 1997, just a couple of months before the St. Louis National BCA Show, we haven’t been involved in “collector car” activities much longer. We had admired restored or great, original cars from our teen and younger years and always said we would like to have a special car for fun use, not just transportation. We actually were thinking relatively new cars as opposed to older cars in those days. In early '95 we finally got serious and started checking out the car ads in the local papers. We didn't know Hemmings, etc. existed.

By that summer, we had found a red 1990 Reatta Convertible in great shape with only 33K miles and a late 1980s Mercedes SL roadster (also red) with low miles and a price which seemed several thousand less than market. Even though the Mercedes was offered by a local BMW dealer who would provide a warranty, the carpeted area behind the seats had something spilled on it which could not be removed. While the latter might explain the low price, we finally opted for the Reatta.

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Ginny and Bill with their '62 Electra 2-dr HT purchased in 2005.



Bill's '90 Reatta convertible has been an award winner for him for at least nine years.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 1-3		Mid-Missouri Olds Show, Tan-Tar-A
June 2	6:30 PM	Bobby's Frozen Custard Display
June 7	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting, Chuck-A-Burger
June 10-14		BDE tour, French Lick, Indiana
June 16	11:30 AM	Picnic at Kunz Plantation

DUES are DUE

PERSONAL PROFILE: BILL LANDERS

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Even though the Reatta was in great condition, it took a lot of work to get it up to car-show condition. We took the car to two car shows that fall and took first place in one and were shut out in the other—the judges liked dirty, big block Corvettes a lot better than small, clean Buicks.

We continued to take the Reatta to a number of car shows the next couple of years and collected a number of awards. We also continued to monitor the “for sale” ads and in the spring of 1997 we saw an ad about the Gateway Chapter BCA looking for new members and meeting at Chuck-A-Burger. We joined the club, helped to work at the National show and became active members.

We have attended all the BCA National shows since joining the club, driving the Reatta to all but the 1998 show in Danvers, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, that string will come to an end this year since we'll miss the show in Seattle.

After joining the club in 1997, the bug to get an older car bit. We found a 1965 Riviera in pretty good shape at a reasonable price and had the perfect car to restore. However, other priorities intervened and the car still sits in the garage awaiting its restoration. *(Bill sold the Riviera since he submitted this article.)*

The bug bit again at the 2005 National show in Batavia, New York. We saw a striking '62 Electra 2dr HT in the car corral, but the owner was never around when we had time to check on the car. After returning home, we decided we really were interested in the car and tried to find the owner by contacting the local BCA chapter. After a number of e-mails, the owner's name and address were obtained and an exchange of letters led to several phone calls and ultimately a deal.

Then, how to get the car from Batavia to St Louis? The owner said the car was in good condition with only 55K miles, but hadn't been driven any distance for quite a few years. Trying to drive it 800 miles in August heat might not be the smartest thing, so we had it shipped.

We've enjoyed our years as members of the BCA and our own Gateway chapter. We've made many good friends from our chapter and across the country and always look forward to seeing old friends at the National and Regional meets. You'll find us at most chapter events, enjoying ourselves with Buick friends.

Contributed by Bill Landers

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is here, summer is around the corner and car shows are popping up all over! Up next for some is the trip to Tan-Tar-A which sounds like it will be a great time. Also that same weekend is our display at Bobby's Custard that has been a blast in the past. For those going to Bobby's, why not show up an hour early as we have in years past and have dinner at Red Apple restaurant? The food is good and very reasonably priced.

May was busy with a dealer show at Dave Sinclair and the trip to the Crown Winery.

The Sinclair show was well attended this year and we even had several new membership applications made at the show. We had about 24 Buicks show up. Paul Meyer drove his '39 which was looking great. We had several new cars with the largest turnout being T-Types and Grand Nationals! David Sinclair told me that they went through 600 hotdogs.

Thanks to Herb for planning our trip to Crown Winery! We had a grand time. Thanks to all who brought the wonderful food items that we all enjoyed! The drive was perfect with clear skies and mild temperatures. It was the perfect day to relax and enjoy the company of good friends.

Special thanks to Herb for his work as club Secretary. A job which I could never do. Your hard work, advice and help have truly been appreciated! And thanks to John Lasinski for taking on the position.

One last thing: VOTE. Ballots for national officers are included in the May issue of the *Bugle*.

Happy Buicking... ☺

Bob Brasses, Director
(636) 343-1507

SINCLAIR BUICK SHOW - MAY 5, 2007



Jerry Reid and son with '68 Skylark Convertible



Sinclair advertising always brings out some interesting Buicks like the 1938 street rod in this line.



Cars came and went during the day and so did the people from the street. Great attendance.



Monica Ledwon with her 1985 Regal Ltd.



Culus Jones and Gail Simon brought their own shade.



After a few hours it is good to sit down.

CROWN WINERY TOUR - MAY 20, 2007

Contributed by Sherrie & Steve Dodson

At 9 AM the Buick Club gathered at the Holiday Inn at Butler Hill Road and Hwy. 55 in South County. After a 30-minute delay (waiting for Sharon and Herb Morris' brownies to finish baking) a dozen cars (many old Buicks) meandered south on Hwy. 61/67 towards the Crown Winery in St. Genevieve, Missouri. A little over an hour later the group arrived at the winery, parking in the front row. Everyone brought in their coolers and snacks and headed to the covered patio with a spectacular, panoramic view of the vineyard. Everyone shared the abundant variety of food and nobody left hungry!

Remember the "Morris Brownies"? Well, they were still warm and who could resist over-indulging?! Well worth waiting for – thanks, Sharon and Herb.

There was a lot of wine-tasting going on and many brought home a bottle or two. Another successful outing for the best Buick Club in town!



GATEWAY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND PROFILE SHEET

Annual dues are \$15 to the Gateway Chapter renewed in May each year
(BCA membership required also for club liability insurance)

Family & Personal Information:

Name _____ Birth month _____
Spouse's Name _____ Birth month _____ Wedding _____
Number of Children _____ Number of Grandchildren _____ (mo./yr.)
Mailing Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone (optional) _____
E-mail address _____ Cell Phone (optional) _____
Profession _____ Employer _____ years _____
Spouse's Profession _____ Employer _____ years _____

Buick Club of America Information:

You are required to be a BCA member. BCA # _____
Buicks now owned _____
Model (Roadmaster, Skylark, etc.) and Body Style (sedan, 2-dr Hardtop, etc.)

About your other car interests:

Collector cars now owned other than Buicks _____

Member of other car clubs _____
(Riviera Owners Association, AACA, etc.)

Other auto related interests _____
(automobilia, models, toys, etc.)

About your other interests:

Hobbies, Collections other than cars _____
(antiques, gardening, golf, etc.)

Please mail your application and / or chapter dues to our treasurer:

Pete Nathan

(314) 966-0461

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