



DIVISION OF
BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

N E W S L E T T E R

Fall 2004

Vol. 8, Issue 2



Original, Restored or Modified

One of the largest conventions/trade shows each year caters to the car enthusiast. The other huge market interest is communications/computers. Yes, the SEMA (Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Assn) show is held in Las Vegas in conjunction with AAPEX.

Aftermarket accessories for your car keep many entrepreneurs throughout the world living well. From specialty wheels to specialty motor oils to car covers these businesses spend millions of dollars in research and development to get us to spend billions of dollars to individualize our vehicles and make them go faster. It's amazing how many companies are out there with innovative ideas to tempt you with their products. Some work, some don't. But they keep coming out with new ones year after year.

The money spent on promoting these products is astounding. Celebrities, old and new, young and old, are hired to bring your attention to their products. Are they any good? Do these products enhance your car's performance? Who knows. Evidently some banker was impressed enough to back the production, but obviously they all can't make it big. If they are lucky, some larger company will pick up the product paying the designer a pittance and possibly later making a fortune.

The Buick Club of America has recently sanctioned a new division, Buick Modified Division. A few people believe that the BCA should not recognize the modified Buick as a vehicle needing preservation/restoration, one of the main objectives of the BCA. Well, when you get down to the rubber meeting the road, just what or how many modifications classify a car as modified? I guess the dividing line will be left to each individual to decide which judging criteria they wish. The 400 point judging method deducts points for items such as window tinting, am-fm radios, air conditioning, wheels and even tires not considered authentic to the car. And, if you really want to get picky, paint color, wiring cables and harnesses, decals, headlight lens/bulbs can quickly put a car out of point range for any trophy recognition. The question then is Does a car have to be truly 'off the line' authentic to enjoy the sport of preservation/restoration? Can't we recognize that we are all lovers of all cars, old and new, and no matter how many additional enhancements we choose to utilize for our own personal enjoyment also adds to the enjoyment of many others. Yet, many times utilization of aftermarket accessories can go overboard. J C Whitney Co was at one time the largest aftermarket purveyor of all sorts of items to make your car run more efficiently or look more attractive. I have seen some cars very nicely restored and then ruined esthetically by adding every chrome do-dad on the market. Does that gigantic set of longhorns on the front of a Cadillac (funny, I've never seen them on any other make) increase performance? Or, how about the squirrel tails or padded dice?



Do sheepskin seat covers make your car look better? Maybe not, but saving the quality of irreplaceable seats can work to your advantage as your car ages. Which brings us to the question of how much recognition should be given to the original stock vehicle which has been lovingly maintained through the years? Now, the leather seats are showing wear and the paint is fading but she's 'all original'. Should there be a classification for these dudes? You bet! The Driven Class was designated to encourage those older cars, over 25, that you just want to enjoy driving. They help you reflect on the past and relive those moments when you could hang your head out the window and catch all the breeze. Who needs air conditioning or seat belts or tinted windows? So, I guess the whole point to this rambling is . . . we are here to enjoy the Buicks of old, as well as the new, and the concepts of the future. Maybe you were one of the fortunate ones who were given a ride in the Blackhawk. No matter which category your Buick falls into we enjoy getting together to show off or talk about cars and seeing friends made over the years So, enjoy the Buick Club and encourage others to join us in our endeavors. Some of us like the old, some the not so old and we all like to see the ideas and possibilities yet to come. I think we can all do it together, don't you?



Ok, here's your chance. Which of these cars are modified and how? Respond to reatta@texas.net

FOR SALE

Buick 1990 Reatta Convertible

White Exterior, White Top, Burgundy Interior, custom car cover, service manual included. Like new condition with 30,000 miles. \$18,900.00
Larry Wilson, 81521 Belle River Road, Memphis, MI 48041 (810) 392-2257

**Reatta Parts
1988 - 1991**

**You name it - I have it!
Call for prices - ask for John
(810) 234-2190
cbash@aol.com**

Make plans now for RENDEZVOUS # 6

The Finger Lakes Chapter is hosting the Buick National Meet in Batavia, NY on July 6-9, 2004.

We don't expect to find any bears on our Rendezvous, so we hope you will join us as we explore the rural areas of upstate New York. This area is home to an unusual section of the Erie Canal. Jim Finn has been out and about looking for the perfect location for our sixth Rendezvous. At this time we plan to depart from the front of the Holiday Inn at 3:00 pm on Thursday, July 6th. The round trip will cover about 40 miles.



As we wind our way through the scenic rural areas, going over and under the Erie Canal, we will stop at Ridge Road Station, the largest independently owned toy and Christmas store in New York state. This building has over 10,000 sq.ft. with something for everyone. The Train Room features one of the finest G-gauge layouts east of the Rio Grande. Over 3,300 feet of track on 4 levels, including 14 tunnels and 11 bridges, make up the Ridge Road & Rochester Railway. You'll find toys, models and collectibles for any level of interest. They even have ornaments, villages, snow babies, music boxes and a whole lot of other decorations.

Fortunately, Tillman's Inn, our dinner destination, is a short drive from Ridge Road Station. The area houses the Cobblestone Museum Complex consisting of 7 historic buildings restored to display artifacts of the Cobblestone Era 1825-1860. One of these buildings is North America's oldest cobblestone church, erected in 1834. Horace Greeley owned the adjacent parsonage restored to its Victorian splendor.

Maps and full instructions will be provided. More details concerning menu choices, prices and such will be in the next newsletter.

The host chapter has indicated a huge turnout for this year's meet. We have heard that the Reattas will be displayed in a very prominent location, so it may be a good move to get your reservations in as soon as possible. The host hotel, Holiday Inn, is already booked.



I know it seems as though we are always bringing up the need for officer nominations. Yes, we need each of you to consider your contribution. We all reap the benefits provided by those few who generously put forth their time and efforts. I will be preparing the ballot to be included in the next newsletter and will need some good candidates. Any of the past officers will be happy to discuss any questions you may have. You'll find their contact information in past newsletters.

South Central Regional Meet

The Alamo Chapter of the BCA recently hosted the annual South Central Regional Meet. As many BCA members were still recuperating from the Plano National, it was decided to do something a little out of the box. Each fall the Alamo Area Car Council hosts a huge collector car driving tour of the scenic hill country around San Antonio. This group consisted of well over 2,000 cars from Model A Fords to Vipers (and 2 Reattas). A course had been laid out with organized stops along the way. So that all did not converge on the rest stops at once, the groups were sent out in waves. These stops (including an old winery and the world famous Lukenbach) were hosted by various local groups, usually chamber of commerce, providing a shady spot to walk around, a cool drink and a convenient break. If you have shown your car in a recent car show, parade, or rally, tell us about it and send us a picture. These are the fun times to show off your car and meet and talk with others who have similar interests.

A Vibration.

I Finally Found It!

I drove my '88 Reatta to Flint last year, a total of 6,112 miles round trip. It ran great but on the way back it started to vibrate every so often and I thought it was the road as it lasted for about a block or so and then it ran fine.

On arriving home I had the tires balanced, then a set of new tires, then new spark plugs and wires, coil pack, MAF, checked fuel pressure, replaced all struts and a wheel alignment. None of these parts helped. But then I found the problem. THE ECM!!!! I replaced it and now the car runs as it should. The car now has 95,000 miles.

Art Kaufman

COMPARING '91 REATTA TO THE '93 ALLANTE

REATTA		ALLANTE
Sporty	General Appearance	Plush
4	Production Years Made	7
\$35,000	MSRP (Cost)	\$65,000
3577 lbs.	Overall Weight	3672 lbs.
185.3"	Overall Length	178.7"
73"	Width	73.4"
98.5"	Wheelbase	99.4"
5 qts.	Engine Oil Capacity	7 qts.
18.8	Fuel Capacity (gal.)	22.5
51.2"	Height	51.8"
60.3"	Front Tread	60.4"
60.3"	Rear Tread	60.4"
170	Horsepower	300
16"	Wheel Size	16"

TECHNICAL STUFF

While attending the 2002 Specialty Equipment Manufacturers (SEMA) show in Las Vegas I talked with reps from the R L Polk Co. Their informational data is utilized by companies world wide to increase sales.

Polk happens to track vehicle registrations, so I ask what they could tell me about Reattas. With a few keystrokes, they found 17,871 Reattas registered in the US, plus another 385 in Canada and Puerto Rico.

This year I returned for updates. Surprisingly, the numbers decreased to 16,862 in the US. I was unable to get the Canadian and Puerto Rican numbers. However, I was able to get a different breakdown. This list shows the number of Reattas registered in each state. As they had no printer, I copied the first five states to give you an idea where most Reattas are located.

Michigan	1,604	Florida	1,239
California	1,472	Illinois	996
Ohio	1,354		

Back in 2002, 82% of the cars built were still registered in the US. The 2004 numbers have dropped to 77.5% but the percentage of survivors is still fairly high.

There is also a huge unknown. How many cars have never been untitled? Mike Rukavina, a Reatta parts vendor, claims to have seen over 100 in dealers' back rooms as yet untitled. A title has to be issued before the data can be included in the statistics.

If you have technical questions or a particular subject you would like discussed, please let me know.

New Steel Bellcrank Now Available

Without sounding too commercial, I have been working on various headlight bellcrank fixes for several years. I thought I had some good ideas but after several attempts to work with vendors, they decided they didn't want to handle a few hundred parts. (The problem we continue to see)

The GM part number for their replacement bellcrank is 16510108 and includes a new link, plus a new bolt and nut. As everyone knows, the problem is the continuing price increases and the great unknown length of time the part, which presently lists for over \$100., will be available.

I know have available a steel part that should last the life of the car. The area that attaches to the headlight motor shaft is extruded steel and gives a great attachment area and will not wear out like the GM zinc diecast part.

It is a direct replacement for the GM part. Therefore, all you need to do is remove the original part, transfer the rubber bumper from the zinc part to the new steel part and install the steel part.

The price for the new part is \$35. each, which includes shipping (in the US). As a gift to loyal Reatta owners, if you order a pair of the new bellcranks before February 1, 2005, I will pay your Reatta Division dues for one year. This offer has also been posted on the Reatta Discussion page to attract some new members to both the Reatta Division and the BCA.

My contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.



Barney Eaton

REATA WEAR

1 Cap Sunburst Logo

Adjustable strap. Color choice –
 Red, green, black, white, blue, burgundy \$ 12.50

#2 Cap Script Logo

Adjustable strap. Color choice –
 Red, green, black, white, blue, burgundy
 Logo in red, white or black \$ 12.50

3 Golf Shirt Sunburst Logo

Colors: Red, green, black, white, blue, burgundy
 Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL \$ 22.50

4 Golf Shirt Script Logo

Colors: Red, green, black, white, blue, burgundy
 Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL Logo in white, red or black \$ 22.50

3 5 T – Shirt

Screen printed, white, 100% cotton
 Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL \$ 12.50

6 Denim Shirt, L/S S/S

Sunburst or script logo (red, white, or black)
 Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL Colors: Blue, Khaki \$ 25.00

7 Stadium Blanket

50"x60" 100% polyester panda fleece, machine wash
 Hang dry. Red, maroon or black w/black binding
 Script logo in saddle, grey or black \$ 28.50

8 Name Tags

Magnetic clip permanent name tag in blue
 W/white lettering
 Discounted price includes shipping \$ 6.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Phone _____ RDiv# _____ E-Mail _____

Office Use Only Check# _____

Dep# _____ Rcd _____ Sent _____

Order must be accompanied by check or
 money order in US funds made payable to:
“Reatta Division, BCA”

ITEM#	Qty.	Size	Color	Logo R/S	Script Color	L/S S/S	Cost	Total
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Shipping Amounts:							Shipping	
	1 item	\$ 4.50		3 items	\$ 6.00			
	2 items	\$ 5.50		4 items	\$ 6.50			
TOTAL								

Reatta Division, BCA Officers and Key Division Positions

Director

Domenick Clemente
22 Smiths Lane
Commack, NY 11725
631-543-3892
reatta_div@msn.com

Assistant Director

Jim Finn
2503 Becks Road
Duluth, MN 55810
218-628-2690
jfinn@cpinternet.com

BCA Technical Advisors – 1988-1991 Reattas

Barney Eaton 20111 Deerfield Dr. Georgetown, TX 78628 512-869-5114 Contact 8 am to 9 pm CST barney@texas.net	Art Kaufman 806 Brookside Ln. Milbrae, CA 94030 650-583-8966 FAX 650-583-8966 artsauto7@cs.com
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Secretary-Treasurer

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Newsletter Editor

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Membership and Division Information

Membership

Reatta

Division membership dues are \$10.00 per year. Membership is for a twelve month period. Make checks payable to: REATTA DIVISION, BCA

Please note that a pink highlighter mark on the RDiv number on your mailing label means that your Reatta Division dues are due or overdue. In order to continue receiving the Reatta Division newsletter, your RDiv membership status needs to be current.

Send all dues payments to (RDiv# on check):

Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Road, Blythewood, SC, 29016

Reatta Division Address:

Reatta Division
Buick Club of America
Ed Farnell
440 Langford Road
Blythewood, SC 29016

Reatta Division Web Site Address:

<http://www.reatta.org>

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810-742-0318
SEK3@aol.com

Reatta Division Membership Requirements

All Reatta Division members are required to be members of the national organization, the Buick Club of America, of which we are an authorized division.

Please note that a blue highlighter mark on the BCA number on your mailing label means that you are not a current member of the Buick Club of America. BCA dues are due or overdue, you never became a member of BCA, in which case a BCA membership form is enclosed. In order to continue receiving the Reatta Division Newsletter, your BCA membership status needs to be current.

The national organization can be contacted as follows:

Buick Club of America, P O Box 360775, Columbus, OH 43236

Reatta Division Address Changes

Send all address changes to the Secretary/Treasurer Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Rd, Blythewood, SC 29016

Classified Ads and Newsletter Submissions

Send to: Nancy Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Dr., Georgetown, TX 78628 reatta@texas.net

Reatta Division Meeting Dates

We normally meet annually at the BCA National Meet.

REATA DIVISION, BCA

C/o Nancy Eaton

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Georgetown, TX 78628