



# Reatta

## Division Newsletter Buick Club of America



Volume 11 Issue 4

Summer 2008

## 2008 BCA National Meet in Flint, Michigan

As of June 12th, the Wingate in Grand Blanc, unofficial host hotel for the Reatta Division, had just a handful of RDiv rooms left and these are now being released to anyone. If you plan to stay where Reatta-related activities will take place, you may want to act now to guarantee your reservations. Hope it is not too late.

Tech Session - In the course of recruiting GM employees to participate in the Reunion Roundtable, Barney Eaton spoke with Ed Mertz, former GM Vice-President and General Manager of Buick. While Mr. Mertz indicated that he couldn't join us for the Roundtable, he did offer the club two Reatta/Riviera jackets. These jackets are like new or never worn and will be awarded in a free drawing at the Roundtable. The meeting will be in the GM building adjacent to the Wingate.

### Schedule of events for Reattas only at the 2008 BCA National Meet in Flint:

- Wednesday, July 16* 2 pm - Reatta Logo Wear Table opens in Wingate lobby/conference room.  
*Thursday, July 17* 1-4 pm - Reatta Reunion Roundtable/ Tech Session.  
5-8 pm - Reatta Rendezvous- A tease visit to John Bourbeau's warehouse in Flint, then a drive to Lucky's Steakhouse in Fenton for dinner; reservations to Ed Farnell by July 10th.  
*Friday, July 18* 5-6 pm - Tour of John Bourbeau's Flint warehouse collection of Reattas.  
*Saturday, July 19* 8-9 am - Judging pointers on the BCA's 400 point judging system.  
9 am-3 pm - All Buick Display at the Flint Cultural Center.  
3-5 pm - Reatta Division annual meeting, Peterson Award.

## RDiv Announces New Editor

April Gill was born in Lansing, not far from the Craft Centre. April and her husband Ron will celebrate 49 years of marriage at the BCA National Meet in July. They have four children and one granddaughter, who loves the Reatta.

For the last thirty years they have built dollhouses for adult collectors. The Gills are also co-curators of a miniature museum on the grounds of the Gilmore Car Museum.

Some of you may know April and Ron from the wonderful Reatta Homecoming they put on in 2006, in Lansing.

Welcome April!



## From the Director by Bill Parks

Below you will find proposed revised by-laws for the governance of the Reatta Division. The proposed additions, deletions and corrections are the product of input from virtually all of your hardworking, thoughtful and dedicated officers and members of the Advisory Committee. This is the first major revision and update of the by-laws since RDiv's founding.

Several of these "changes" memorialize what we have been doing for years, such as prorating dues, combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and adding to the Assistant Director the responsibility for planning RDiv's activities at the BCA National Meet.

We've also removed some obsolete items, such as obtaining Reatta eligibility for 400-point judging and the position of National Meet Liaison Officer. We've cleared up an ambiguity which appeared to allow the minor children of members to vote.

There are a couple of major changes. One merges the elected officers and the appointed Advisory Board members into a Board of Directors with more specific and broader responsibilities. The new provisions for a Nominating Committee require us to plan ahead and there are new provisions for amending the by-laws by both the membership and the Board of Directors.

**If any readers have any further suggestions, please email us before the annual meeting in Flint so that we can iron out any big problems in order to provide continuity, input, and predictable orderly governance of RDiv for all its members.**

**PLEASE VOTE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THESE CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THE ENCLOSED BALLOT.**

Editor's Note: In an attempt to economize on the space needed we are using a smaller font and deleting spaces between paragraphs. You will receive an updated copy of the adopted bylaws when you pay your dues.

### PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Key: ORIGINAL BY-LAWS (regular font)

*PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY ADDITION/REPLACEMENT (italics)*

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY DELETION (bold)**

#### BY-LAWS OF THE REATTA DIVISION BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

##### Article I Name and Purpose

The name of this club shall be the Reatta Division, Buick Club of America (BCA). The Reatta Division is a subsidiary of the BCA and as such, subject to the rules and regulations of the parent organization. Formation of the Reatta Division is provided through Article VIII (Divisions) of the by-laws of the BCA. The Reatta Division (RDiv) is developed for the collection, preservation, and enjoyment of the Buick Reatta automobile. The RDiv is designed to provide a social, historical, technical, and general informational exchange for the benefit of the membership.

##### Article II Members

###### Section 1: Membership

RDiv members must be members in good standing of the BCA. Privileges of RDiv membership are to be revoked should an individual withdraw or lapse from BCA membership. Membership shall include spouse and minor children, *but minor children shall not have voting rights.*

###### Section 2: Dues

Dues shall be determined by the needs of the membership and the amount set by the **RDiv officers Board of Directors** based on input from the membership. **Dues are payable on September 1st of each year and will not be prorated dependent on the member's enrollment date.**

*Dues shall be payable annually based upon the month during which the member initially joins RDiv. Membership renewal date shall be printed on each member's newsletter mailing label. Fees Dues collected will be used for publication of a the RDiv newsletter, special mailings, recruitment efforts, awards, or other projects as determined by the **Division officers Board of Directors.***

###### Section 3: Expulsion/Reinstatement

Expulsion for reasons other than nonpayment of dues will be handled in accordance with Section 4, Article II of BCA by-laws. Likewise, reinstatement shall be provided under measures detailed in Section 5, Article II of BCA by-laws.

##### Article III Meetings

###### Section 1: Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of RDiv shall be held during the National BCA meet **in July of** each year. Location and time will be announced for membership notification at an adequate interval prior to the event. The meeting will also be advertised in the BCA "Bugle" and in **any the** RDiv newsletter.

## Section 2: Agenda Quorum

Agenda items may be requested by any member and must be received by **an RDiv officer** *a member of the Board of Directors at least one week prior to the meeting.* *Voting items, except for Amendments to these by-laws, will be passed or denied by a simple majority of members present and will also include valid proxies (see section 4).*

## Section 3: Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the **RDiv officers Board of Directors** will take place at times and locations deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the club. These meetings may take place by telephonic or electronic means, in lieu of a formal gathering of the officers.

## Section 4: Proxies

All members of RDiv are entitled to vote at the annual meeting and may vote in person or by proxy or by written ballot, signed by the member.

## Section 5: Special Voting Items

As issues arise in between annual meetings, voting items may be presented to the membership on special ballots. These ballots are to be completed, signed, and returned to the RDiv Secretary-Treasurer, who will tabulate the results and notify the membership of the outcome.

## Article IV Officers

### Section 1: Number

Officers of the RDiv shall be Director, Assistant Director (**National Meet Liaison Officer**) and the Secretary-Treasurer.

### Section 2: Method of Election

Membership shall elect each officer for a term of one year at the RDiv annual meeting. Potential candidates shall make known their intention for office **at least one week prior to the annual meeting to at least one member of the Nominating Committee in time for the Report of the Nominating Committee to be published in the newsletter as required by Article V, Section 4. Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.**

### Section 3: Eligibility

All officers shall remain members in good standing of both RDiv and BCA for the length of their term. Upon ceasing to be a member in good standing of either organization, the term of office of any such officer shall automatically terminate.

### Section 4: Duties of Officers

**Director:** The Director shall preside at all meetings of the RDiv and shall faithfully discharge the duties as chief executive officer of the organization. The Director shall perform such other duties as deemed appropriate to the office held.

**Assistant Director:** In the event of vacancy of the office of Director or inability from any cause to act, the Assistant Director shall assume the duties of the Director. *In addition, The Assistant Director shall be responsible for securing location and determining the time and place of the annual meeting in conjunction with the chapter(s) involved in sponsoring the BCA National Meet, and shall also be responsible for hosting, planning and arranging the Reatta Rendezvous to be held during the National Meet.*

**Secretary-Treasurer:** The Secretary-Treasurer shall have charge of and keep account of all funds received and expended on behalf of the RDiv; **Treasurer** shall deposit all sums as approved by the officers; **The Treasurer** shall pay all bills certified by the consensus of the **RDiv officers Board of Directors**; **and** shall collect all dues of members; **The Secretary** will give notice of all meetings; notify and tabulate any special votes or ballots; keep minutes and records of all meetings; make sure that officers Board members have copies of minutes of all meetings; conduct all routine correspondence; and keep a list of members of the Division.

**[National Meet Liaison Officer: The Liaison Officer will be responsible for securing location and determining the time of the annual meeting in conjunction with the chapter(s) involved in sponsoring the BCA National Meet.] It will also be the responsibility of this officer to interface with the judging staff to provide for a Reatta Class at the National Meet. This responsibility may terminate once the Reatta is eligible for the 400 point judging system.**

### Section 5: Vacancies

Any vacancy which may occur **among the RDiv officers** *on the Board of Directors* will be filled for the unexpired term **by the remaining officers** *by majority vote of the Board of Directors.*

## Article V Committees

### Section 1: Appointment

The Director has the authority to appoint all committees as may be deemed advisable.

### Section 2: Committee Procedures

All members of committees must be RDiv members and serve at the discretion of the RDiv officers. Committee reports shall be made to the Director with a copy to the RDiv Secretary-Treasurer.

### Section 3: Advisory Board

The Advisory Board shall consist of three **Reatta Division RDiv** members appointed by the Division officers, one a past officer, acting as consultants to the officers, considering proposed ideas and procedural methods on behalf of the membership and to acquaint potential officer candidates with leadership needs. Potential officer candidates should be encouraged for Advisory Board positions. Terms will be staggered so that at least one new person would be added each year. If an Advisory Board member is elected to fill an officer position, the officers should appoint someone to fulfill that person's term on the Advisory Board. *The officers shall appoint the Advisory Board members immediately upon their election*

### Section 4: Nominating Committee

*The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the Director at the annual meeting. Depending upon availability, at least two (2) members of the Nominating Committee shall be Past Directors and no member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible for election as an officer. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one (1) or more individual(s) to fill the offices of Director, Assistant Director (Liaison Officer) and Secretary-Treasurer for the following year in a written report to the Board of Directors. The Report of the Nominating Committee shall be published in the last regular issue of the RDiv newsletter published before the annual meeting.*

## Article VI

*Board of Directors*

*Section 1: Membership*

*The Board of Directors shall consist of the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary-Treasurer and the members of the Advisory Board, none of whom shall be married to any other member of the Board of Directors.*

*Section 2: Duties*

*The Board of Directors shall decide all issues referred to it by any member of the Board of Directors or appointed advisor (that is, technical advisor, webmaster, logo wear coordinator, newsletter editor, etc.), may remove any member of the Board of Directors for just cause, fill vacancies, appoint advisors, overrule any action of the Director by majority vote, direct the Director or any other member of the Board or Advisor to take such action as it deems appropriate, and take any such other action(s) as the Board deems appropriate consistent with the best interests of RDiv and its members.*

*Article VII*

*Miscellaneous*

*Section 1: Fiscal Year*

*The Fiscal Year shall begin on the first day of September in each year.*

*Section 2: Prepayment of Dues*

*Members may prepay their dues for the upcoming fiscal year at the Annual Meeting of the RDiv provided they are current members in good standing at the time.*

*Section 3: Logos*

*Any RDiv logo must be approved by the BCA Board prior to its adoption.*

**Section 4: Amendments**

**The by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting only. Adequate information on proposed changes must be provided at an acceptable time prior to the meeting. Proxy votes are also available for amendments as provided in Section 4, Article III.**

*Article VIII*

*Amendments*

*Section 1: By Membership*

*These by-laws may be amended by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, whether in person or by proxy, at the annual meeting following the publication of any such proposed amendment in the last regular issue of the RDiv newsletter published before such annual meeting.*

*Section 2: By Board of Directors*

*These by-laws may be amended by vote of three fourths (3/4) of all of the members of the Board of Directors, provided, however, that any such amendment(s) adopted by the Board of Directors shall be published in the next issue of the RDiv newsletter published following the adoption of such amendment(s), and shall be subject to ratification by vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present, whether in person or by proxy, at the annual meeting immediately following publication of such amendment(s).*

*Section 3: Final Adoption*

*Amendments to be voted on at the annual meeting may be altered, changed, or amended for consideration by majority vote, whether by proxy or in person, during such annual meeting, provided that the final version of such Amendment(s) shall be passed by the majorities specified in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article VIII.*

*Section 4: Effective Date(s)*

*Unless otherwise specified in the Amendment(s) so adopted, such Amendments shall be effective immediately upon passage.*

**Reatta Division Webmaster Needed**

Roberta Vasilow, BCA Webmaster, has very graciously kept the Reatta Division's web site up and running for many years. Her service has been greatly appreciated.

She is now requesting that someone from the Reatta Division, who is experienced in this area, might take on this service. Please contact a RDiv officer if you have questions or wish to utilize your talents on behalf of RDiv.

**View From My Workbench  
by George Madsen, Assistant Director**

This year has been a rewarding time for me. While the learning curve for a new RDiv officer is steep, our board of directors and my fellow officers have made my job enjoyable. I hope to serve as your Assistant Director of the RDiv for yet another year. I ask for your vote in our club's upcoming election.

**Reatta Fun Fact:** The Reatta had the best paintwork of any car manufactured worldwide.

# From the Editor's Desk

by Nancy Eaton

It has been my pleasure to edit the newsletter for RDiv members. How quickly almost ten years have flown by. Impossible and exciting moments experienced by our members have brought forth stories to share. I believe the most fun comes from sharing those times with others.

The newsletter is there to inform you, to teach you and to entertain you. I hope you feel that you have received some portion of these from time to time. Also, providing assistance and support is important to the morale of those who publish and distribute your newsletter. I have decided to push



back from the Editor's computer to allow someone else the chance to voice their opinions and offerings.

April Gill has accepted the Editor's position. I'm sure you all remember her planning and producing the "Reatta Reunion" in Lansing. Her talents will provide you with an informative newsletter.

Not everyone can do all the little 'duties' needed to make a successful club come together. It takes each one contributing their two cents worth to make a

project fly. When we each add our talents then the group becomes successful in completing a project. Thank you for adding your two cents and I hope you received way more than two cents in return for your

contribution and efforts on behalf of your members. Maybe your talent allows you to contribute fifty cents on one project but not as much on another. That's where someone else can pick up the ball and add theirs, viola!, a successful group or project.

behind the scenes, I cannot thank Stanley Held enough for all his assistance, backup and support given to me over the last four years. He has been there to format each issue and as a result given me relief in areas where I needed it. I'm sure April will also find his support invaluable.

My point here is that we need everyone's support or talent at some point or another. Are you contributing yours? Thanks for the support you have given me and please continue to support your leadership.

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## Arthur Kaufmann

One of the things we dislike in life is parting with friends, even in our daily routines. To acknowledge the death of a valued member leaves us with lasting memories.

Art Kaufmann was a technical advisor for the 1988-1991 Reattas and shared his knowledge whenever called. His family has informed us of his passing in April of this year.

# You Can Go Home Again

by G. Ron Jongeward

I learned very early that Buicks are special. As a young boy in a small farm town, I knew economy was the way of life. I also knew that my father, however frugal, would not cut corners in his choice of the family car; we had a 1936 Buick sedan, which I know implied wisdom and taste. I inherited his interest in cars, and at age four found a large tire company ad in LIFE magazine picturing all the current automobiles. I studied the ad, and any time we went for a drive I delighted in calling out the name of every care we saw.

As an adult, I became interested in sports cars and activities, mainly rallying. When my work required me to have a more adult-friendly car I moved up to a 1967 Buick Riviera! When we retired in 1996 to move back to the town of our youth, we found that our town now consists of a large number of retirees, whose cars seem to fall into three groups: one group drives mid-sized clones; a large group of the more astute all drive Buick LeSabres; a few folks feel compelled to have a Cadillac or similar (the smaller the driver that larger the car). We chose a LeSabre and felt like you really can go home again (deja-vu all over again)!

Some months later, as I sat (meditating?) in my recliner, my wife announced, "you need to get off your (chair) and find a hobby"! I asked, "like what?" Her reply,

"find an old car and fix it up"! I jumped to life (and dried off the chair). I began searching and unearthed a white 1990 coupe that seemed like a prospect. The car had belonged to a retired military officer who had maintained and garaged it. I checked it out, drove it home, and the love affair began.

I wanted real wood accents in the red leather interior, but found the only available "wood" was the plastic set from Rivieras. In my previous life I once ran a hobby/crafts business. So, using only common household tools and readily available wood, I hand-crafted a complete set of cherry-wood accents for the dash, center console and doors, and created a matching cup-holder to fit the arm-rest. I did have a fine woodworking shop apply the glossy epoxy laminate. (Note: this is not a demanding project. I may prepare a how-to guide for interested folks. Call me if you are interested!)

My wife soon fell in love with the Reatta, and after a few months suggested that we sell the LeSabre, thus eliminating our one-car garage problem.

Because we left Washington state at an early age, we have especially enjoyed road trips around the Northwest discovering all its beauty for the first time. It is one fun trip after another!

## New Reatta T-shirts Available at Flint



## Chuck Kerls for RDiv Director

My name is Charles 'Chuck' Kerls. I am from Wichita, Kansas. My very first attendance at a Buick Meet was at the 2004 National Meet in Plano, Texas.

I found then that the one important reason for attending a national meet is meeting and getting to know the people. Our first day, Kathy and I met some folks from New Zealand who are still very dear friends today. And then the next day we met many more.

So my goal as RDiv's new Director is to get everyone acquainted either thru a local car show, thru the newsletter, thru the internet forum or the BCA National Meet.

## REATA DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING July 27, 2007

The annual meeting of the Reatta Division, BCA was called to order by Director, Domenick Clemente, at 1:53 pm at the Hilton Hotel in Bellevue, Washington.

The minutes of the 2006 annual meeting, which had been published in the most recent Reatta Division newsletter, were approved by majority vote of the members present.

The FY 06/07 Treasurer's report reflecting a balance of \$8,796.21 was distributed to and approved by all members present.

Director Clemente called for any additional nominations for the election of officers. None being received, the nominations were closed and the ballots that had been mailed in and those received at the meeting were given to members Stanley Held and Tom Selander to count.

A few minutes were taken for all members to introduce themselves to the group.

Under new business was the presentation of the third annual Bob Peterson Award. The Bob Peterson Award is presented annually to a member who has done something outstanding to benefit the Reatta Division and the preservation of Reattas. Each year the membership is asked to provide nominations for the award with the final selection being made by the current officers. The award for 2007 was presented by prior year's recipient Nancy Eaton to Barney Eaton for his years of support and service to the Reatta Division. The members present gave Barney a long and well deserved ovation.

Logo wear coordinator Carole Madsen announced some new items for sale including visors, sweatshirts and ladies shirts.

Cal Dewhirst distributed a special grill bracket that Reatta owners could use to display their gold awards.

Carole Madsen reported that Ron and April Gill are now curators for the Gilmore Museum. The museum has a program whereby clubs and individuals can purchase special bricks to help support the museum. Carole made a motion that the Reatta Division purchase two bricks at a cost of \$50.00 each. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Members Held and Selander reported that the ballot votes, after tabulation, reflected that the officers for the coming year are Bill Parks, Director, George Madsen, Assistant Director and Ed Farnell, Secretary/Treasurer. Carole Madsen was replaced by Jim Finn on the Advisory Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm. These minutes were recorded by Carolyn Selander.

Ed Farnell, Secretary/Treasurer

## Reatta Division

### Buick Club of America Officers & Key Division Positions

**Director:** *Bill Parks*

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**Assistant Director:** *George Madsen*

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**Secretary/Treasurer:** *Ed Farnell*

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**Newsletter Editor:** *Nancy Eaton*

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**Reatta Logo Wear Coordinator:** *Carole Madsen*

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**Web Site Address:**

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**Web Road Master:**

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**BCA Technical Advisor—1988-1991 Reattas**

*Barney Eaton*  
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**REATA DIVISION**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Ed Farnell  
440 Langford Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

## **Membership and Division Information**

Reatta Division membership dues are \$10.00 per year. Membership is for a twelve month period.

Please note that a pink highlighter mark on the RDiv number on your mailing list 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.

Please make checks payable to: Reatta Division, BCA.

Send all dues payments and address changes (please write your RDiv# on your check) to:  
Secretary/Treasurer, Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Road, Blythewood, SC 29016.

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 or you never became a member of the 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 or by email at [bcaoffice@buickclub.org](mailto:bcaoffice@buickclub.org)

Please send classified ads and newsletter submissions to:

Newsletter Editor, Nancy Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628 email [reatta@texas.net](mailto:reatta@texas.net)

Reatta Division meeting dates: We normally meet once a year at the BCA National Meet.