



Reatta

Division Newsletter Buick Club of America



Volume 12 Issue 1

Autumn 2008

A Reatta Cruises with GM Into its Next Century by Christopher Neumann

The annual Woodward Dream Cruise is possibly the largest one-day automotive event, drawing 1.5 million people and 40,000 classic and special interest vehicles from around the globe to metro Detroit. This year, the 14th Annual Dream Cruise took place on August 16th, and a special moment in history was commemorated. Now for the explanation on how our 1991 Reatta convertible became a part of it.

General Motors celebrated its 100th birthday on September 16th. Leading up to that actual day there were numerous activities taking place. Overall it was officially known as "GMnext" - a celebration focused on the future. However, to showcase its rich history of design and innovation, GM decided to treat the crowd to something special. They did so by creating a "Cruise Within the Dream Cruise" by selecting 106 cars from hundreds of entries submitted by employees anxious to have their own vintage car chosen to participate.

The oldest vehicle selected was a 1912 Cadillac. GM Chairman and CEO, Rick Wagoner, lead the way toward Woodward from GM Headquarters in downtown Detroit in the newest vehicle - a custom

designed ethanol (E85) powered Corvette ZR1 that in the coming weeks would be used as the pace car in the 2008 Detroit Grand Prix.

The vehicles made their way north on Woodward approximately 16 miles and ultimately to GM designated spaces along the route for display.

Our vehicle was #93, a 1991 Reatta Convertible - black with a black top and gray interior. We've kept it all original and at the time it had about 19,000



miles on the speedometer. The local TV news conducted a live broadcast of the event and took periodic shots from the helicopter which followed along the entire route. People had their spots staked out well

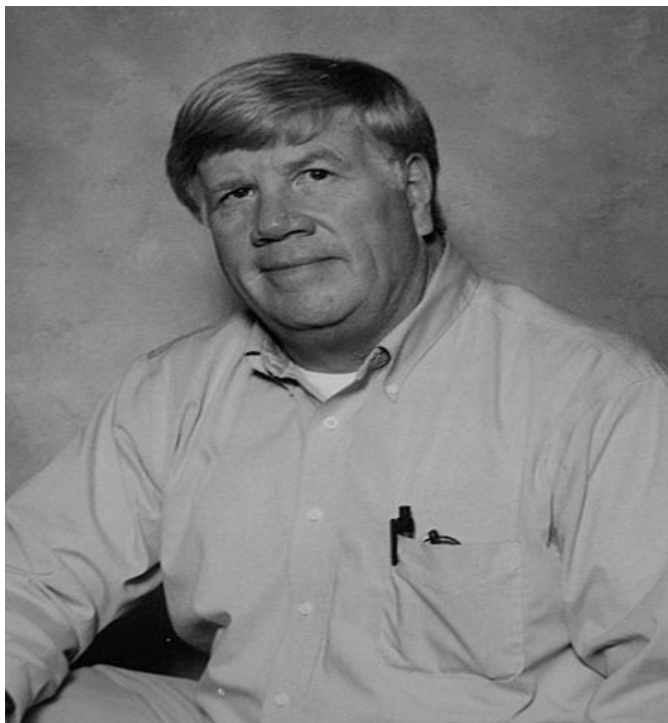
in advance to watch the cars go by and cheer on the drivers.

Throughout the day we met friendly people from all over the U.S. and beyond. We even met some people who were involved in the production of the Reatta. Some stopped by to talk about the car, why GM built it, and to chat about their perspective on GM's future. We were simply happy to be there, and pleased to see the Reatta acknowledged with its own special place in GM history that day.

From the Desk of Chuck Kerls

Director

The summer has flown by and as I reflect on the Nationals in Flint, I glance at the thermometer outside and it is a hot 107F degrees here in Wichita, KS. Kathy and I were thankful that the weather in Flint



was pleasant in spite of a few rain showers that made everyone scramble for cover on Saturday afternoon. The rain stopped for a while, and all seemed to have a good time looking at the great cars that made the trip to the show field. I am always amazed that the Reatta Division can produce more cars at the National Show than any other model. One thing that is becoming more apparent is that our Reattas are drawing a great deal of attention, and we are earning the respect of the BCA. I talked to a lot of people walking around and most of them wanted more information on the Reatta. I think this is a good sign for the future.

We really enjoyed this year's National. One of the highlights was breakfast and afternoon snacks at the Wingate Hotel while visiting with old and new friends, The hotel staff even presented an award to the Reatta of their choice—the Bumble Bee—a bright yellow custom job. If you were there, you

couldn't have missed it. It belongs to Roy Tipps. Great job on the modifications! Conversations in the parking lot at night about cars that we own, want to own and the parts to keep them running, listening to the experts like Barney Eaton and our own parts man, Jim Finn (who should do a cameo on Tool Time), kept everyone's attention. The Reatta Rendezvous this year was very good, with the scenic tour led by George Madsen. No one got lost that I know of and everyone had a good visit and a very good dinner. Thanks George for a job well done. I think that Carol probably told him where to go and how to get there, sorry George.

The Sloan Museum was first rate and the Whaley House Tour was just as interesting. If you didn't go there, you should have, there is a lot of history there. Then there was the dinner on Saturday night. The weather was cool and the food was good. I think that the co-chairs, Roberta and Harold did an outstanding job.

This year we saw changes in the by-laws of the club and a new newsletter editor; April Gill has agreed to step up and take on that job. She will have some big shoes to fill, but with our help, I'm sure she will do a fine job. Nancy Eaton, former editor of the newsletter will be helping Pete Phillips with proofreading the Buick Bugle and most likely whatever else he asks her to do.

So here's the pitch—it is clear to me already that we need help with articles and photos of what the members of our great club are doing throughout the year. Do you go to local car shows? If you do, let us know, write a short article and share your experiences. One of my goals this year is to include as many members as possible in our newsletter, to learn about the different parts of the country where they live and to encourage all members to attend a national meet. I also wish that the ladies would write an article on the national, from their perspective. I am sure that April would like to hear from others in the club, so let's all wish her success with the newsletter.

How I Found A 1988 Reatta For My Daughter

by Fred Langille

My daughter had reached the age in which she felt she needed her own wheels in order to properly become a member of her high school's elite. With the alternative being my acting as a chauffeur to a sulen-faced teenager, I quickly realized that the quirky, but non-operable Chinese San Fu BIC Passenger Van (one of 24 made in Taiwan, it has a 600cc 2 cylinder engine and ten-inch wheels) that we had was unsuitable.

Fortunately, a local dealer was willing to trade straight across, in order to defray any and all taxes, for a running vehicle on his lot. When I spotted the red 1988 Reatta and inquired about it, he agreed to the trade. It seems that he had originally sold it to an older man who couldn't quite get the hang of the CRT screen operations and wanted something else.

The car is a very nice "20-footer" and although the pop-up lights didn't pop-up, they worked and he rewired the rest of them, in order to get the car legal for the road. As the San Fu was inoperable, he delivered the Reatta on his flatbed and took the San Fu with him.

I never had a Buick before, but I quickly and enthusiastically began to be a convert and joined both the

BCA and the Reatta Division. In researching the car, I found it was an early one with suede bolsters and was in one of the most popular color combinations, red and saddle. The condition of the car is such that it shows very well, but on close examination, you can see where TLC is needed, but the car has no rust or dents. I have been collecting repair parts and will be giving the car the lovely care it needs, to make my daughter proud to drive it.



Noelani Langille at the wheel of her Reatta

HELP WANTED

Immediate opening, excellent pay and benefits. Now that I have your attention, the Reatta Division is in dire need of someone to manage the Division's web site. Our current webmaster has been doing a great job for us, but she is a member of another Division of the BCA and has been serving graciously as our webmaster in addition to her other duties. Roberta Vasilow has indicated that she would like to turn her duties over to a member of our Division. If you have never done so, go to www.reatta.org and look at our really nice looking web site. We have Roberta to thank for this, but it will not maintain itself.

If any member of the Division has any experience with creating and maintaining a web site, and would be willing to join the ranks of the few and the brave, please contact Chuck, George or Ed. Contrary to my opening teaser, there is no pay or benefits other than the opportunity to serve others who share a common interest in one of the finest cars that Buick dropped from their line. Maintaining the site should take a minimal amount of time and it is a very important part of our mission. Unfortunately, none of your present officers has the computer skills to keep it going.

Again, if you can help out, we are anxious to hear from you. Thank you for your careful consideration .

View From My Workbench

By George Madsen, Assistant Director

BUICKTOWN SUPER MEET CELEBRATES A CENTURY

The Buicktown Chapter, together with the BCA, hosted another unforgettable national meet in Flint, Michigan. The celebration included not only the BCA annual meet, but it was also a tribute to General Motors on its one-hundredth year of operation. The Buicktown Chapters' dedication and hard work was evident everywhere we went.

Anyone who toured The GM Heritage Center may consider themselves fortunate because the public is usually not allowed to view these breathtaking vehicles. Those who did, saw about 200 of approximately 1100 vehicles owned by The Heritage Center. The focus of GM is on the future. The Heritage Center is charged with the task of preserving examples of technologies that once represented the future of GM. Antique, muscle, concept and development vehicles abound, even hydrogen and modern electric vehicles are represented in the 80,000 sq. ft. building.

THE REATTA DIVISION

The Reatta Division held some of its own events. The Wingate Hotel, in Grand Blanc, accommodated us with a number of perks as they had in 2003. They offered us rooms at the same rate we paid in '03, provided rooms for our annual meeting and Reatta Wear sales, and even provided clean towels for car washing.

The tech meeting on Thursday drew over 50 interested Reatta owners. Barney Eaton presided over the session in the GM Service Parts Operations Building. His guests included a number of people who had hands-on experience in designing, building and marketing the Reatta. There were lots of great questions, answers, comments, a few laughs and even a prize drawing.

That evening the Reatta Rendezvous traveled to parts supplier and fellow RDiv member John Bourbeau's

All Together Automotive, in Flint, to see his collection of all things Reatta. From there the Rendezvous meandered its way to Lucky's Steak House in Fenton for a great dinner. In all 59 Reattas and 112 people made the trek.

On Saturday morning, the RDiv, with the help of a police escort, caravanned to the Buick Display at the Cultural Center. Jim Finn and Barney Eaton conducted a BCA judging pointers class for Reattas. Then, everyone split into groups to roam the Cultural Center grounds, see the sights, view other Buicks, and visit the swap meet or the Sloan Museum.

The RDiv annual meeting took place that afternoon. Division director Bill Parks who did such a great job on updating the club by-laws chose not to run for re-election. Chuck Kerls was elected and installed as our new director. April Gill was presented with the Bob Peterson Award for 2008. She is also the new editor of this newsletter. When the meeting ended it was time for coffee and cake in the Wingate breakfast nook. Coffee thanks to the Wingate, and cake thanks to Tom and Carolyn Selander. Roy Tipps, of Springfield, Illinois, was presented the Wingate employees' favorite Reatta award.

As activities came to a close some people headed home, others stayed overnight and left the next morning. Another Buicktown meet to remember. Bob Neumann deserves special thanks for all he did to make the show so much fun for our members. As I read my sentences above, I find that I could end many of them with the words, thanks Bob.



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, educational, 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 the spouse and minor children but minor children will not have voting rights.

Section 2: Dues

Dues shall be determined by the needs of the membership and the amount set by the Board of Directors, based on input from the membership. Dues are payable annually based upon the month during which the member initially joined RDiv. Membership renewal date shall be printed on each member's newsletter mailing label. Dues collected will be used for publication of the RDiv newsletter, special mailings, recruitment efforts, awards, or other projects as determined by the 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 the RDiv shall be held during the National BCA meet 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 the RDiv newsletter.

Section 2: Agenda

Agenda items may be requested by any member and must be received by a member of the Board of Directors at least one week prior to the meeting. Voting items, except 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 Board of Directors will take place at times and location deemed necessary for 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 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 membership of the outcome.

Article IV
Officers

Section 1: Number

Officers of the RDiv shall be the Director, Assistant Director 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 intentions for office 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 the 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 the 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 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; shall deposit all sums as approved by the officers; shall pay all bills certified by the consensus of Board of Directors; shall collect all dues of members; will give notice of all meetings, notify and tabulate any special votes or ballots, keep minutes and records of all meetings. The Secretary will make sure that officers have copies of minutes of all meetings, conduct all routine correspondence, and keep a list of members of the Division.

Section 5: Vacancies

Any vacancy which may occur on the Board of Directors will be filled for the unexpired term 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 provided to the RDiv Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3: The Advisory Board shall consist of three (3) 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 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 Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Depending upon the 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 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.

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 regular 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 in person or by proxy, 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.

Amended and Adopted 7/19/08

Reatta Marketplace

Reatta Parts—Parting over 50 cars. You name it, I should have it. John 810-730-9230.

Reatta Wheels—Four refurbished wheels, look brand new. \$195 each + s&h. John 810-730-9230.

1988 Coupe—After many years of enjoyment I am selling my '88 red/tan coupe. Very clean and straight. 16-way seat and 6 CD aftermarket player. Needs headliner and ignition switch. 200,000 miles. \$1400 obo. 410-745-3810 (MD).

Reatta Parts—Large inventory. Reasonable prices. Jim jfinn@cpinternet.com

1989 Coupe—White, moon roof. Perfect parts car. \$1000 or by the piece. Call Barbara Peterson 201-529-2556 or JEAN5089@aol.com

Reatta Fun Fact

While it's generally agreed that no Polo Green convertibles were built, the high-mount stop lamp, specific to the ragtop, was available in Polo Green through Buick dealer parts departments.

Reatta Division

Buick Club of America Officers & Key Division Positions

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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

Please send classified ads and newsletter submissions to:

Newsletter Editor, Nancy Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628 email reacta@texas.net

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