



Reatta



Division Buick Club of America Newsletter

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Summer Edition

June 2005

Meet BooReatta



On first meeting Chuck and Kathy Kerls in Plano, I knew they were good hometown people. Then I learned he was a Wal-Mart store manager in Blackwell, Oklahoma (America's Hometown). And, owning a blue Reatta, they had to be great. They attended their first Rendezvous like it was their fifth and returned to Wichita with a gold-winning car and a pack of new friends. Naturally, I had to find out more and asked for a story on how they found 'BooReatta' and how they enjoyed their first National Meet.

Here's their story -

Beginning my search for a Reatta, I decided on an 88 or 89 because of the touch screen feature. I had always felt that the touch screen was the main Reatta attraction, so it was a must. It also had to have a sunroof and 16-way seat. I was looking for a burgundy or blue and lucked out finding a blue, inside and out.

After several weeks of emails, photos and phone calls, I purchased BooReatta sight unseen. Everyone told me that was risky, but I felt comfortable with the seller and things went very smoothly.

When I ran the VIN number, I learned that I am the 3rd owner. The car's first and second owners were within the same family, so in reality, I'm the second owner. The car was sold by Ed Morrison of Lem Immke Buick in Columbus, Ohio on Valentine's Day 1989 and totaled \$30,214.98 with sales tax. A 1983 Chrysler LeBaron 4 door, valued at \$4,000, was traded in. The Reatta spent some time in the Kansas City area before the owner and car moved to Scottsdale, Arizona.

And the rest of the story - - -

A week later a friend of mine did the road trip to Arizona to fetch the Reatta. Being the end of July, the weather was hot but he was able to make the round trip in 4 days, 2400 miles pulling a trailer. I was pleased, to say the least, when the car finally arrived in Wichita in very good overall condition. The car was as represented in all of the ads and photos, and, also included the window sticker, books and all service records since delivery. I was in heaven.

As usual, when first acquiring a car, several items headed the list of things to be done. The right side door had some fairly deep dings which required a little body work. Then the headliner needed replacing and the center console had a split in the vinyl, replaced that. The factory wheels showed an occasional clash with a curb so had them refinished and added new center caps. About 30 days later, my final inspection revealed all systems to go. That is, everything but the headlights. Barney's new headlight fix all was still on the drawing board and there didn't seem to be any way to turn so daylight driving was enforced until I finally broke down, purchased the bellcranks from GM and set out to fix the headlights. The first one didn't go real well and added to my vocabulary on several occasions. In the long run, I finished the repairs and now both are in good working order. Of course, Barney finally came up with his repair kit so I currently have spares. Now, I even know how to fix them.

With that battle won, I began to use the Reatta as a daily driver. It didn't take long to realize just how special the Reatta is. (I had always dreamed of owning a Reatta, but the price held me back. Feeding my family always seemed to have a higher priority than owning a luxury car.) So, realizing this, I decided to detail it and enter a few car shows to let everyone else in on my secret. I took it to a couple of shows. No trophies, but lots of interest and questions were generated. Mike Berry, a reporter from the Wichita Eagle Newspaper, contacted me wanting to run an article on my Reatta. The article appeared in his column, 'Wichita on Wheels', in December 2003 just before the car was displayed in the Daryl Starbirds National Rod and Custom Show. "Is that the car that was in the paper? I've never seen anything like it." were asked again and again. I felt like some people were beginning to see there was something else out there besides Mustangs and Cameros. Booreatta even began to win a few trophies.

When I first purchased my Reatta, I joined the BCA and the Reatta Division, mostly for the contacts for parts and expert advice. I was overwhelmed with the wealth of information available from Barney Eaton, Jim Finn and Mike Rukavina and the many other contributors on the Reatta discussion forum. I quickly learned what to do and what not to do. Other information from these folks, got me interested in the 2004 Buick National Meet which was to be held in Plano, Tx. I hadn't given much

thought to entering a car until I ran into Pete Phillips, secretary of the BCA Board of Directors and a student of restoration at McPherson College here in Kansas. He encouraged me to go to Plano and have some fun. So Kathy and I headed down I-35 to do just that!

Having been a member of the Mulvane Marauder Car Club in the Kansas area, anything goes at our meets with no set structure to follow, leaving me with many expectations and questions about a BCA meet. I first envisioned meeting a bunch of guys with their perfect postwar cars that were never driven much less getting them dirty or even dusty. Boy, was I wrong!

Kathy and I arrived in Plano too late to register the first evening, so we went in search of our hotel and the hospitality room at the host hotel. We again ran into Pete Phillips who introduced us around a bit and the Texas hospitality began to make us feel right at home. We didn't have much luck finding any Reatta people but found many other quite interesting car owners. Thanks to our meeting Mike Hanning from New Zealand, we now have a good friend down under. (another story) We spent the rest of the evening talking to a lot of different people about a lot of different cars, but no Reattas. Were they going to show?

Everything came together the next morning as we arrived at the show field, registered and was directed to the safety check lane. Luckily, we had stopped off at Wal-Mart to pick up a fire extinguisher I would need to pass the safety check. When it came time for the headlight check, I kept thinking. "Now is the time for the headlights not to work." But they did. I must have been doing something right. Shortly after we completed the safety check, all the other Reattas began to show and show up they did! Never had I seen so many together at one time. It was a really amazing sight. They all looked brand new, and made me work harder on mine. Wanting to look as good as the others, we waxed and rubbed so much I kept waiting for a genie to jump out of the sunroof.

Remembering we had come to have fun, we took some time off from waxing and rubbing to enjoy Dallas. We toured the historic areas of downtown and dined at restaurants not available in Wichita. We attended the Reatta meeting and the judges training session. To be honest, the judging seemed to be just too complicated for me. You have to remember that we are from the land of OZ, but we did learn some stuff.

One of the highlights of the National was the Rendezvous (us folks from Kansas have always called this a cruise, so we learned something else) to McKinney, Tx for dinner and drinks. The food was great and the company exceptional. We really felt at home. I was even learning to say y'all! We were having a great time. One of the things I remember was the ice cream parlor mystery? Did anyone know where it was? It was finally located

and every one seemed to know where they were, except me, I was still lost. No body else knew as we just slipped back in the caravan and headed back to the hotel.

Finally the day of the show arrived with all the cars at their best. Wow! what a collection. Every one of the cars had a story and a proud owner, and my thoughts about the BCA members were wrong again. Each and every member was ready and willing to talk about their car or listen to your story about your car. And, I learned one more thing about the BCA judging. Nobody was actually competing against each other like most shows I have attended, but rather on the point value of each car. I watched as the judges went over the cars with a desire to rate each car on it's own merits. I admired their efforts.

Now, here comes the awards banquet, and this time I was worried about being underdressed. Somewhere, in all the paperwork, I recalled something about a formal dinner. By this time, my wife knew we would fit in and she was right. There was everything from blue jeans to tuxes. One couple at our table was dressed in the period of their '20s model Buick. Following a delicious banquet meal, the awards were given out, and the Reattas were last. So here we were, at the back of the room, having a good time when someone called my name and something about a GOLD award! What?! I must say that I was shocked! How proud I was that the little car from Kansas was at home with some of the best cars I had seen anywhere. Remembering all the other Reattas, I'm very proud to be in the company of each and every one. In the long run our goal is to keep our cars roadworthy and in the best possible condition for future generations. This, to us, is more important than any trophy!

Knowing the importance of the BCA membership, I always encourage all Buick owners to join, and, hopefully, some of them will. The 2005 National Meet in New York is just too far away for us to be able to join y'all but we definitely will be attending another meet in the near future.

Several weeks ago I made the decision to sell the Reatta and had received several offers. I actually accepted one but the buyer backed out at the last minute. It was then that Kathy and I decided that our home was the proper home for BOOREATTA.

For those of you going to New York this summer, GOOD LUCK, have a safe trip, and most of all have some fun! We did!!!

The BCA is a good club and has earned my total respect. I also want to thank all the Reatta Division members who take the time to keep our cars on the road and THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

What fun Y'all !

Chuck and Kathy Kerls
BCA# 39318, RDiv# 642

TECHNICAL UPDATE

As our cars get older, we find more parts have been discontinued by General Motors. Convertible owners cannot find weatherstripping, sun visor clips, and the list goes on. Some owners have stockpiled spare parts while newcomers are just discovering some of the parts are no longer available.

Fortunately, about 70% of the Reatta content is the same as a Riviera. Almost all of these parts are drive train, suspension, and electrical.

To help you find parts, I have attempted to compile a list of people/places selling spare parts. At one time I attempted to keep a list of people with parts cars, but this became a nightmare as I used email addresses which sometimes change frequently.

I try not to favor one over another but will tell you that Jim Finn and John Bourbeau are Reatta Division members. Jim has several parts cars. Give him a chance to take care of your needs. 218-628-2690 jfinn@cpinternet.com

John Bourbeau in Flint at 8810-730-9230 has maybe 20 new Reatta bodies that were in the paint shop when production ended. He also has several parts cars. cbaslh@aol.com

Larry Keie in Florida at 772-562-7594 has a few parts cars.

Mike Rukavina at 480-239-2788 has a variety of new and used parts.

Speedway Automotive, Phil Hertel, in Phoenix 602-276-0090 has 100+ Reatta parts cars and a wide variety of parts.

Its important that we stick together so, if you deal with any of these folks, make a point of reminding them about joining the Reatta Division.

Barney Eaton
Technical Advisor

FOR SALE

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1989 Sterline Silver Coupe with gray interior. Car came from Arizona by transport Dec 2001. NOT driven in winter. Custom Konig Monsoon 17" rims w/Goodyear Eagles. Excellent condition. 95,400 miles. \$7,200 OBO. James 320-679-9294 jimofkl@ncis.com

Reminder Page - - - -

* The 6th **Rendezvous** appears to be rapidly growing into a large gathering. The deadline for making your dinner reservations is June 30. Send your check, payable to Reatta Division, BCA, to Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Rd., Blythewood, SC 29016. Be sure you also include your menu choice of fish, chicken or beef. The price is \$16.25 each.

* **Your ballot** to vote for Reatta Division officers for the next year is included in this newsletter. Take the time to send in your vote. Fortunately, the current officers are enjoying themselves and have agreed to being candidates again this year. There are still spaces on the ballot for anyone else who wishes to add their names. Also, we need to know if you would like to be a part of the new advisory board. We will be finalizing the bylaw change at our annual meeting to create an advisory board to supplement and assist the elected officers. You may bring your ballot to the meeting or mail it to Ed Farnell prior to June 28. The meeting is on Saturday, July 9, at 3 pm. The room location will be in your schedule of events.

* The Reatta Division will have a **hospitality table** in the host hotel lobby. Your help would be greatly appreciated to answer easy questions (like what time do we meet for the Rendezvous and where), sell logo items and generally act as liaisons. A two hour shift goes by quickly and is very enjoyable.

* As previously stated, we anticipate a large number of Reattas to be judged. It is important that we provide an adequate number of **judges** to allow fair all around judging for all classes. If you have knowledge of other classifications, you will be welcomed in those areas. Judging is fun and educational. You will learn more about your car and about those cars you have only heard about. It's only fair to give back where you receive.

* In the last newsletter we asked for your nomination of someone you feel should be considered for the "Bob Peterson Meritorious Award" which will be presented at our annual meeting. This should be one who has gone beyond the usual to benefit the Reatta organization. Email, call or write to Domenick Clemente with your nomination.

* **Your dues** are due annually. Your newsletter label is marked accordingly to bring it to your attention. Mail your check to Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Rd., Blythewood, SC 29016. If you so desire, pay your dues for more than one year.

* **Mark your calendar.** It's not too early to plan for the 2006 National Meet in Rochester, Minnesota, July 12-15, 2006. See the Bugle for details.

* As we have done in the past, the back side of your ballot has been left blank for you to make comments. Any comments are welcome, If you wish to see more on certain subjects or you feel some subjects don't receive enough coverage, let us know. Is there a subject you would like a tech advisor to cover? Your officers like to hear from you.

* Some Reatta owners enjoy opportunities to meet other Reatta owners. August gives you just that chance. The Great Lakes Region will be hosting a Regional Meet in Indianapolis August 11-13. And then, since you are already in the area, the Heartland Region will be hosting their Regional Meet in Chicago (Lincolnshire) August 18-20. Check your Bugle Coming Events for details.

FOR SALE

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2 1990 Convertibles – one all original gold senior award winner. 8,400 miles, red/tan, fully equipped. \$24,000. The other is red/red (maroon) bronze award winner at Plano. 65,000 miles, fully equipped with new tires. \$12,500. All original issue manuals, invoices, etc. Jim Schaffer, P O Box 927, Sister Bay, WI 54234 920-854-7778 carvershaf@aol.com

1990 Coupe – 64,000 miles, #9 condition, red/tan, 2nd place winner at Western Nat'l. \$7,500.

1989 Coupe – 98,000 miles, #5 condition, red/tan Computer works great. \$3,500.

OR BOTH FOR \$10,200.

Johnny Johnson, 916-505-2298, 681-2298

REATA DIVISION
c/o Nancy Eaton
20111 Deerfield Dr.
Georgetown, TX 78628

A final note as I go to press. The number of Reattas registered to be judged at Batavia is over 25. In order to provide all classes with fair judging we should be providing at least 8 to 10 judges or administrative workers. Are you signed up? Contact a RDiv officer for more info on how you can help everyone enjoy the show. See y'all in Batavia !

Polish your halo - - - -

For years antique, classic, specialty and muscle car shows have led the way for people to make donations to various charities, large and small, throughout the world. I would like to devote a special column to your favorite car/charity show in the Reatta Newsletter. Send me a picture of your car entered in a charity show. Tell us a bit about the charity and about some of the cars in the show.

Some may have participated in the larger shows like Pebble Beach, Cranbrook or Amelia Island. But I would like to hear about your efforts in your hometown or state. Let's spread the word about sharing with others.

Call John for prices on 1988-91 Reatta parts
810-234-2190 chash@aol.com

You name it, I have it !

