



Gateway Gazette



Monthly Newsletter of the St Louis Chapter Buick Club of America

Volume XXXVI No. 1 January 2017

Director's Letter

Happy New Year's everyone! Welcome to 2017!

I hope you all had a great and safe holiday. Candace and I traveled to Nebraska to be with family again this year, it was a great trip and a nice visit. There's nothing better than being around family and those you love for the holidays.



The first week of January the Board of Directors will have their annual meeting, we will also be planning the events for the year. So... If you want to see an event or activity, please let me know ASAP and I will get it planned. I will have the calendar complete and out the last week of January. We have a lot of great activity ideas for this year including a day trip to Country Classic Cars in Staunton, Illinois. Our annual Love Park BBQ and Pere Marquette events will be back again for 2017.

Our next event is the annual holiday party at CJ Muggs in Webster Groves. It's on Sunday, January 15th at 4:00 pm. Please RSVP by January 10th to ensure we have staffing and tables set up for everyone. The best place to park is in the parking garage just behind the restaurant. Their address is 101 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119.

A HUGE THANK you to all our board members and volunteers who keep our club running so smoothly throughout the year. Without these members we wouldn't have a club and their time is so greatly appreciated. So, thank you Pete Nathan, Chet Palumbo, Steve Dodson, Ted Becker, Bill Landers, John Midkiff and Dave Smith.

Thank you all for letting me be a part of this great Buick family.

Great job last year!! You All Rock!!

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes, December 11th, 2016

- The meeting was held at The Old Spaghetti Factory, Chesterfield, MO and was facilitated by Kristina Richards, Director. This meeting also featured our Toys for Tots drive.
- Kristina welcomed everyone who attended the holiday luncheon and thanked everyone for their contribution of toys. Toys will be dropped off at the Babies-R-Us store in the valley.
- 29 members and guests were in attendance.

Member News:

- Doug Stahl had to have a second surgery on his foot this week, all went well, but complications followed. After a visit to the ER he was told he has cellulitis.
- Mike Saputo finally sold his “mothership” (big red convertible) so he no longer owns a Buick. Mike said it was great getting to know everyone; and hopefully he will return to visit us someday.
- We received a thank you note from Adam Martin for the wedding card the club sent to him and Atena.
- Happy Birthday to Sabina Lasinski and Jeanne Palumbo who celebrated their December 11th Birthdays with us.

Treasurer's Report: (no report)

Old Business:

- Shriners Car Show 2017
 - Kristina presented a thank you plaque to John and Kitty Lasinski for the trophy class they sponsored.

New Business:

- Shriners Car Show 2017
 - Shriners Venue; Shriners raised their facility fee from \$300.00 to \$1,000.00, Thanks to Steve Dodson, this fee was negotiated down to \$750.00.
 - A motion was made by John Midkiff, seconded by Bob Windal to pay the Shrines \$750 facility fee for 2017, from the Club's Shriner account.
 - An addendum to the motion was made by Bill Landers, and accepted by John Midkiff, that requests the Club to find sponsors to fund the increased amount of \$450.00.
 - Motion with Addendum was approved by all.
 - Greg's Automotive will be the major sponsor for next year's event. He plans to provide us with 150/200 T-shirts, and will have his race car and racing motorcycle on display. Plans also include a visit from hockey legend Bob Plager, an Elvis impersonator and Shriners Clowns.
 - The 2017 Shriners Car Show will be at the Shriners Moolah Temple, but alternate venues are being considered for 2018.
 - Kristina presented the 2017 Class updates:
 - Street Rods will be split into two classes; "Steel" and "Fiberglass"
 - Trucks will receive two new classes to support modified/custom trucks.
 - Discussions followed with request for additional classes for motorcycles, Corvettes and late model MoPars.
 - Kristina would like to get help from more car clubs next year; she will reach out to the Camaro, Corvette, and Mustang car clubs.
- Club Web Page
 - Kristina plans to meet with a WEB design company in January

- Club T-Shirts
 - Ted Becker will include an order form in the next Gazette for members wanting to order new shirts. (*Ed. Note: The order form is not available at press time but will be included in the next month issue.*)
- Events Coordinator
 - The Events Coordinator position is still open, PLEASE HELP...

Upcoming Events: (Club Events)

- **January 15th Meeting and Holiday Party: CJ Muggs in Webster Groves**

50/50 Drawing: (no 50/50 drawing this month)

Next Meeting:

- **January 15th - CJ Muggs in Webster Groves**

Dinner: 4:00p.m.

101 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-963-1976

Gazette Giggles of the Month



Ain't it the truth!!



This about this one for a minute!!

Annual Toys for Tots Luncheon

The annual Gateway Buick Club “Toys for Tots” luncheon was held on December 11 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Chesterfield. Attending the meeting were 29 members including two birthday girls, Sabina Lasinski and Jeanne Palumbo. After a nice meal of various Italian dishes and spumoni ice cream, the girls were brought small birthday cakes in honor of their milestones.

As is the tradition, many were dressed in festive Christmas season apparel, though Santa Claus was nowhere in sight. Sharing the holiday spirit, a large assortment of toys was collected to be given to those in need. This year’s target group was the teen and preteen aged children, who are often passed by in favor of younger children. There were basketballs, model cars, makeup kits, board games, grooming sets and other similar items in the collected gathering. We hope that our efforts will make the season filled with joy for those children we are helping.

An abbreviated meeting was held and led by our director, Kristina Richards. Minutes of the meeting can be found towards the front of this newsletter. Of special note during the meeting, was a hearty congratulation and thank you from Kristina for all the work and efforts so many have made to make our club the great success that it is. Organizations are normally no better than their leader and this is so very true with our club. Kristina puts in so much effort throughout the year, but especially for our annual car show. Though she may thank the rest of the club for its efforts, the real thank you goes to her. Thank you Kristina, you are the best!!



Hail Hail the Gang's all Here!!



John and Monica



Mark and Sherrie



John and Angie



Richard and Vera



Bill and Ginny



Chet and Jeanne



John and Kitty with Sabina and Anna



Bob and Barb



Ted and Mary



Maggie and Pete



Kristina and Tom



Aaron and Rhonda



The Birthday Girls – Jeanne and Sabina



Toys for Tots Collection

Neglected Buicks



Burma Shave Signs

Do you remember them??

*Is he lonesome
Or just blind
This guy who drives
So close behind
Burma Shave.*

*Heavens latest
Neophyte
Signaled left
The turned right
Burma Shave.*

*5 star Generals
Private's first class
Show Equal rank
In the looking glass
Burma Shave.*

*To steal a kiss
He had the knack
But lacked the cheek
To get one back
Burma Shave.*

How Serious is Your Loyalty to Buick?



The Buicks of Winter

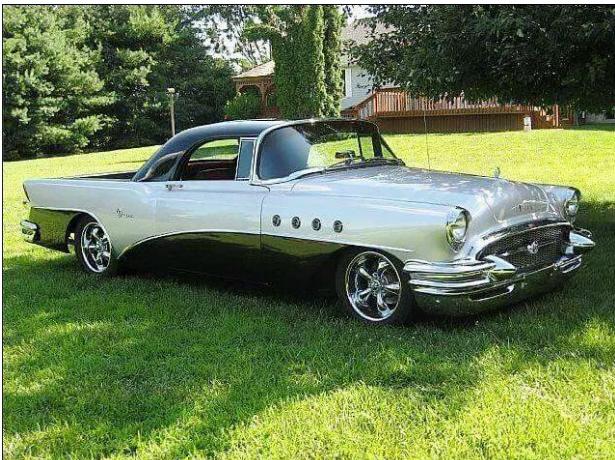


Buicks from “Back in the Day”



Kustom Corner

Honey, I'm taking the 1955 Buick "El Supero" to Lowes to pick up some 2 by 4's



Love it or hate it, that is some very impressive craftsmanship on this modified 1955 Buick Super from Maryland. The roof has the appearance of an early Thunderbird, but is too large to be from a donor car. Probably it is a hand formed piece to mate up with the rest of the body.

There appears to be no tailgate, so the bed can only be accessed from the sides. The body appears to have original proportions, so no alterations of the external dimensions. It does, however, appear to be lowered a bit.

Check out that impressive interior! That is far from an original dashboard, though the lower portion has that rolled shape that was used in 1955. The speedometer is rectangular, rather than the original round shape. The gauges are mounted in what appears to be a custom made panel. Custom console forms into the bottom of the dash.

The upholstery appears to be either real or simulated leather that blends the red dash and the black carpeting.

Whatcha think???? Like it or hate it??

Buicks in Racing

This episode of “Buicks in Racing” features the stock block Buick V6 engine used in open wheel racing, specifically, the Indy 500.

Rules at Indianapolis, as all other similar forms of racing, change rapidly to either reflect technology, level playing fields or to eliminate “rule bending” – AKA “Cheating”. Through the years at the Indy 500, cars and engines have evolved through various purpose built racing engines, such as the Offenhauser engine to stock block based pushrod engines such as the small block Chevrolet and the Buick V6. Herewith is a brief history of the Buick V6 engine used from 1984 through 1996.

The maiden voyage of the racing Buick V6 was in the 1984 race piloted by the capable hands of Scott Brayton who qualified in the 26th position. His father, Lee Brayton, owned Brayton Engineering and did most of the development work on the engine for Buick. This particular version was the logical follow-up to the turbo V-6 Buicks that had been Indy pace cars three times in the previous 10 years. This particular Buick engine was based, not on the 231-cu.in. street version turbo, but was instead a destroked version of a 274-cu.in. V-6 that Buick had developed for the NASCAR Busch Grand National Series.

Brayton followed up from his initial outing with a second place start in the 1985 race. Also that same year, Pancho Carter sat on the pole in a Buick powered car at 212 MPH. Carter’s accomplishment was the first of 4 pole positions for the Buick power plant. In 1992 it was Roberto Guerrero who took that honor, followed by Scott Brayton in both 1995 and 1996.

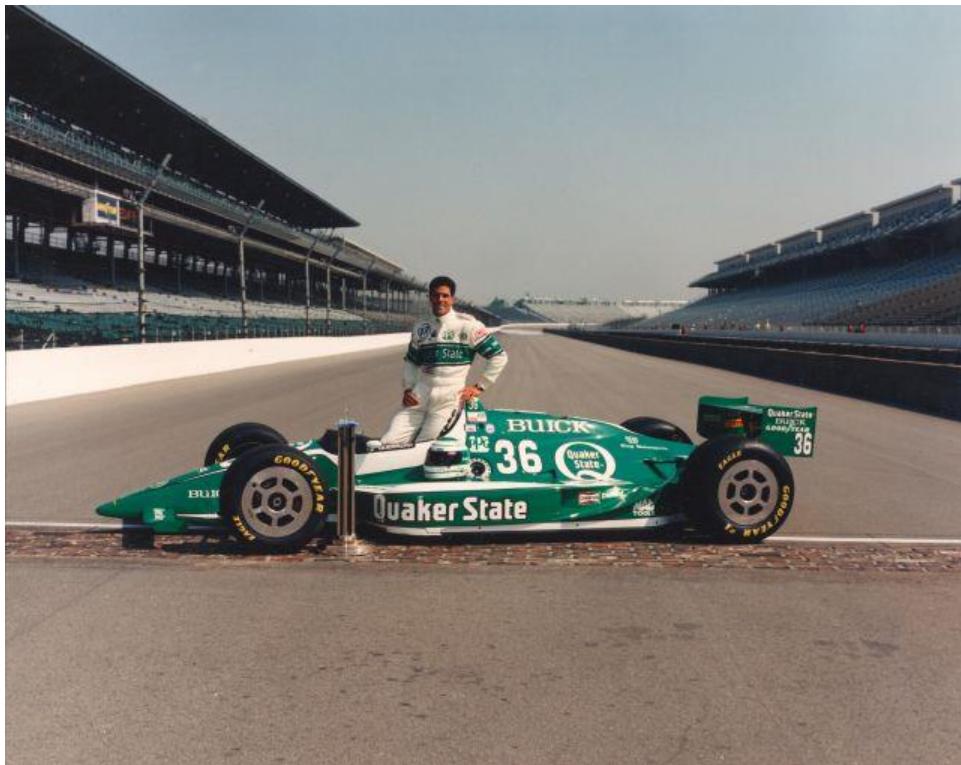
Buicks, while they lasted, were truly potent, with their 55 inches of boost elevating them to 750hp at 9,000 rpm. It was a good economical alternative to purpose built engines, but finishing a race was problematic. There were many inherent issues that created reliability deficiencies. Chief among them were: oil pump drive problems, connecting rod failures or rocker arm breakage. To illustrate that point, only twice, with Al Unser, Sr. at the wheel in 1992 and with Arie Luyendyk piloting in 1995, did the Buick V6 or its successor, the Menard V6, complete the entire 500-mile distance. Though starting on the pole in 1985, Pancho Carter but would finish last when the oil pump quit after six laps. The 1985 proved to be an omen for things to come as, not only did Carter finish in 33rd and last place, but Brayton went out early as well finishing 30th. To a great degree, that was the story of the Buick, and to a lesser extent, the brief Chevy 60-degree turbo V-6 programs: Enormously powerful, blindingly quick, but woefully unreliable.

Buick soldiered on with their effort through 1993 when they determined that the reliability issues were beyond their desire to continue development. John Menard, owner (and multi billionaire) of the Menards Home Improvement chain, bought the rights to the engine and continued campaigning them through the 1996, when he also threw in the towel and finally put it to rest.

Tragically, Scott Brayton, though qualifying on the pole for the 1996 race, was killed in a practice session the day prior to the race. The team then brought out a backup car driven by Danny Ongais, who started last on the starting grid but rose to as high as 7th in the race. Danny was a wild driver by any definition of the term earning him the nickname of Danny “On the Gas” Ongais. Through his career, Danny drove cars in almost all forms of motor sports racing ranging from motorcycles to sprint cars to drag cars to open wheel cars to stock cars.

The 1992 race saw one of the most unusual events ever seen at Indianapolis. Prior to telling the story, however, a brief technical description is necessary. One of the main features that gave the Buick so much more horsepower than the rest of the cars was the fact that they were allowed to run a higher turbocharger boost pressure. For those of you who have ever driven a turbocharged car know, there is a lag in acceleration inherent with a turbocharged engine. This is due to the time required to spin the turbocharger up to a sufficient speed commonly referred to as “spool up” to create the high manifold pressure that the turbo provides. It creates a momentary feeling that not much is going on with the engine.

Roberto Guerrero sat on the pole on race day and was proudly leading the field down the backstretch on the second parade lap. The fans were cheering in anticipation of the upcoming race and seeing this powerful Buick lead the field to the green starting flag. As all drivers do, Guerrero was weaving from side to side clearing off debris from his tires and warming them up normal operating temperature. Unfortunately for Guerrero, either he was caught up in the moment, or he was unfamiliar with the aforementioned “Turbo Lag”. Regardless, he mashed the gas pedal to spin the tires to provide that extra tire grip feature. When he did that, the turbo came on like gang busters and the car shot off like a rocket. Not able to control the torque steer, it made an abrupt left hand turn, hit the inside wall and that was the end of his day. He thereby became only the second driver to sit on the pole only to finish dead last and the only pole sitter to never complete a single lap. As the old song goes, “Momma said there’d be days like this”.



Roberto Guerrero prior to learning the wonders of a turbocharged Buick engine

Rollin' With The FIN MANtm

(New Date) February 3rd, 2017

Touring the Levi Collection– Springfield, Illinois



Bruce Kunz, a.k.a. *The FIN MAN*tm has been writing the Old Car Column in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the last 14 years... over 600 stories- 3,000 trivia questions!

His *Breakfast With The FIN MAN* has been an increasingly popular event with readers since he started it in January, 2015.

Interest has been growing leaps and bounds for our February 3rd trip to Springfield. Every day I get e-mails and letters from people wanting to join in on the fun... and this IS going to be a really fun event!

As of this writing, I have 46 confirmed reservations. Reservations will be cut off at 150 persons.

DETAILS AS OF THIS PRINTING:

NEW Event Date: Friday, February 3rd, 2017 (Icy road date: February 10th.)

Meeting places- SOUTH: East commuter lot at I-270 and Gravois Road (SW corner)
NORTH: The park 'n' ride lot at I-270 and Lilac Avenue (NE corner)

Boarding times: SOUTH: 8:00 a.m. Departure at 8:15 sharp.

NORTH: 9:00 a.m. Departure at 9:15 sharp.

Lunch: Approximately 11 a.m. at Pizza Ranch, Springfield, IL. Lunch included in ticket price.

Levi Tour: Approximately 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Return trip: Depart Springfield approximately 4:00 p.m. Arrive back in St. Louis at approximately 6 p.m.

Cost: \$60 per person includes travel, lunch at Pizza Ranch, tour of Dick Levi's Car, Truck, Motorcycle and Jet collection, and return travel to St. Louis.

For more details as they develop, follow the Old Car Column, Mondays in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on the back of the Sports section.



PAY NOW using your credit card...

call: 314-327-FINS

(314-327-3487)

If you would like to join The FIN MAN and friends for this special event, e-mail your intentions to him at:

the_fin_man@msn.com or U.S. Mail to: The FIN MAN c/o St. Louis Post-Dispatch,
900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101

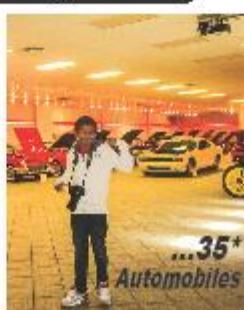


About your meal—

Pizza Ranch serves pizza and roasted chicken, buffet style. If you don't see your favorite toppings, just ask and the Pizza Ranch chefs will make a pizza just the way you like it. They also have a soup and salad bar. Your meal will include all of the above, plus a beverage.



30+ Motorcycles!



...35+ Automobiles



3+ Cessna Citation business jets!



PROMO 3 - 12-02-16

*Size of collection may vary. Not all units may be present at time of tour.

Tech Tip

By Angie Midkiff and Chet Palumbo

PROBLEM: With all of the crazy weather we enjoyed this last year, Jeanne and I had an opportunity to take the Wildcat out with the top down, for one more late fall drive. The problem was, by the end of the day, the top shrank or stiffened up as it cooled and when we went to put it up, we could not get it to latch. Well the top is new and I was really afraid to force it and possibly damage it. So for the last couple of months, the Wildcat has been sitting in the garage with the top up as far as it will go, but not latched.

SOLUTION: During our Holiday Lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory, I was sitting across from John and Angie and we were discussing the joys of owning a convertible. After mentioning my problem with the cold shrunk top, we began to brainstorm ways to warm it up, other than waiting for the next warm sunny day. Finally Angie came up with the idea of a heating pad or an electric blanket...???

YES...!!! It worked... The heating elements in a queen size blanket completely covered the top. I added a comforter on top of the blanket to help retain the heat, and set both sides on High for two hours. Pulled down on the side rails and it stretched out and latched with ease.

Thanks Angie...!!!



Buicks Seen on Craigslist



50 Special Sedanette



64 Skylark Convertible



71 Skylark Convertible



68 Skylark Convertible



68 Lesabre



40 Model 41

Buick Used Car Lot



1964 Buick Riviera \$6500 or best offer

This car was purchased 2 years ago with intentions of doing a full restoration, but the project was never completed and losing out on storage arrangement. It does run and drive. The transmission has a leak, and it needs floor boards and trunk floor. There are many spare parts that come with the car: full set of chromed parts, bumpers, 2 sets of seats etc. 90% of the body work has been completed and it is nearly ready for paint. New dual exhaust, new drum brakes, new wheels. Car is located in O'Fallon, Mo. Contact: Nick Randazzo 636-775-5524

Buick Ouchies!!





January Birthdays

Steve Dodson
Chas Doggendorf
Rhonda Ford
Jerry Green
Ed Keil
Scott Keller
Patricia Panus
Vic Panus
Chris Waltz



January Anniversaries

John & Angie
Midkiff

Sam & Susan
Palazzolo

How Can I Help?

By Kristina Richards, Director

I want to get involved -- How can I help?"

Below are the roles / positions / tasks that our club needs help with:

Event Coordinator Position -- Organizing and attending club events, booking reservations, sending out reminder emails, managing RSVP pages, taking a few pictures for the newsletter

Website Design -- Once completed the updates should only take an hour every few weeks. This would consist of uploading event pictures and newsletter PDF. Board position changes if any. We can advertise the volunteers business on the website, newsletter and Shriner's Goodie bags.

Club Marketing -- Spreading the word about our club while you are at car shows or other car events. Hand out business cards, Use the club window card, clings and magnets

Performance Lead – Recruiting members and organizing performance related events based on those members showing an interest.

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 15 – • Annual Holiday Party - CJ Muggs in Webster Groves

Dinner: 4:00p.m.

101 W. Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-963-1976



GATEWAY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND PROFILE SHEET

Membership with Newsletter via Email \$15

Membership with Newsletter via Mail \$25

Membership is 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: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone (optional) _____

Email or other information: _____

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 & Body Style) _____

About your other car interests:

Collector cars now owned, other than Buicks: _____

Member of other car clubs: _____

Other auto related interests: _____

(automobilia, models, toys, etc.) _____

Annual car events you currently attend: _____

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, # 1 Huntleigh Trails Lane, St. Louis, MO 63131 – Phone: 314-413-2966

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

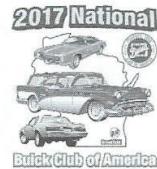
City, State, Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone (optional) _____

Email: _____



**Buick Club of America
2017 National Meet
Brookfield, Wisconsin
July 5 - 8, 2017**



Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____ BCA# _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
 Country: USA/ _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Home Chapter Affiliation: _____

Buick Club of America National Meet Registration:

**** BCA Members Registration Fee to Attend the 2017 BCA Nationals in Brookfield, WI**
 Includes: Member/Spouse/Guest Participation, Dash Plaque, Program, Hospitality, etc.

_____ @ \$35 ea = _____

*** Non-BCA Member at Large Registration (Display Only)**

_____ @ \$60 ea = _____

Includes: Non-BCA Member at Large and Guest Participation, Dash Plaque, Program, Hospitality, etc.

Additional Non-Immediate Family Guests Name _____

_____ @ \$20 ea = _____

Late Registration Fee if Received or Postmarked after June 1, 2017

@ \$15 = _____

Buick Car Registration: Deadline for Judged Car Registration June 23, 2017

Formal Judging is on Saturday, July 8, 2017

- Judged (2005 or older): *Circle one* ~ 400 Point / Professional-Special / Race Car # _____ @ \$35 ea = _____
- Archival Judged ~ Un-restored 1992 models & older # _____ @ \$35 ea = _____
- Modified: *Circle one* ~ Mild / Resto Rod / Radical / Driven # _____ @ \$35 ea = _____
- Display only ~ Non Judged - all years to current # _____ @ \$20 ea = _____
- Driven Class ~ Non Judged Class - 1992 models & older - not trailered # _____ @ \$25 ea = _____

Buick Car Information: Please note that Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is Mandatory for all judged cars

Car Registration: Year _____ Model# _____ Model Name _____ VIN: _____

BCA Senior Award Car? *Circle one* Yes/No What Yr.? _____ Sr. Preservation award rec'd? *Circle one* Yes/No What Yr.? _____

Are you available to serve on a judging or administration team? *Circle one* Yes/No (If yes, complete Judges Volunteer form on back)

Do you need car trailer parking? *Circle one* Yes/No How many spots? _____ Sorry, there is No RV parking available.

Vendor Registration:

- Outdoor Space 10'x18' (Paved) # _____ @ \$25 ea = _____
- Indoor Space 8'x8' (tables not provided, rental available) # _____ @ \$30 ea = _____
- Car Corral (Buicks for sale) # _____ @ \$25 ea = _____

Tours & Activities: Tours subject to availability-first come/first served basis. Lunch is served on all tours ☺ and departs from Host Hotel

Tues, July 4 3:00 - 7:00pm Registrations pick-up opens at Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

_____ @ \$45 ea = _____

Wed-Fri 8:00 - 5:00 pm Registration pick-up opens at Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

Wed, July 5 8:30 - 3:00pm EAA-The Spirit of Aviation Museum Tour

_____ @ FREE = _____

8:30 - 4:00pm Harley Davidson Museum Tour and Miller Brewery Tour

_____ @ \$45 ea = _____

4:00 - 10:00pm Car Cruise to Waukesha, WI

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

Thur, July 6 8:30 - 3:00pm EAA-The Spirit of Aviation Museum Tour

_____ @ \$45 ea = _____

8:30 - 4:00pm Harley Davidson Museum Tour and Miller Brewery Tour

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

Fri, July 7 8:30 - 3:00pm EAA-The Spirit of Aviation Museum Tour

_____ @ \$45 ea = _____

8:30 - 4:00pm Harley Davidson Museum Tour and Miller Brewery Tour

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

6:00 - 10:00pm Buick Heritage Alliance Gala

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

Indicate # Beef Chicken Fish

Sat, July 8 7:00 - 10:00am Registration pick-up open

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

9:00 - 3:00pm Judging of beautiful BUICKS

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

9:00 - 2:30pm Milwaukee Art Museum Tour

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

6:00 - 6:30pm Social Time with Cash Bar

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

6:30 - 10:00pm 51st Annual BCA Banquet & Awards

_____ @ \$50 ea = _____

Indicate # Beef Chicken Fish

Other Offerings: Iola Swap Meet and Great Lakes Dragaway (maps provided for self-tours)

Payment: Checks/Money Orders (USD only) made payable to: 2017 Buick Club of America National Meet

MC/Visa# _____ Exp Date _____ Code _____ TOTAL = _____

Mail Forms & Payment to: 2017 BCA National Meet • PO Box 467 • Coppell, TX 75019 • or email to BuickNationals@verizon.net • 214-354-1348

2017 BCA National Meet & Host Hotel is the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel • Ask for Buick Club of America 2017 Meet

Host: Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel • 375 S. Moorland Rd • Brookfield, WI • 262-364-1100 • \$114

Alternate Hotels: Embassy Suites • 1200 S Moorland Rd. • Brookfield, WI • 262-782-2900 • \$164 and up