



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St Louis Chapter

Buick Club of America

Volume XXXVIII No. 1 January 2019

Happy New Year....!!!

Yes, it's that time of year again when we make resolutions and plans for the New Year, and reminisce and wonder where the last year went. I know for me, it seems like each year goes by faster and faster, and for some reason, this past year really seems like a blur.

2018 was truly a significant year with major celebrations and changes.

First of all, the most significant event of the year was our 40th Anniversary. Our celebration started with the Club's display at the annual Easter Car Show in Forest Park and continued with the Club's annual BBQ in Love Park.

- At the Easter Car Show, we were the "Featured Car Club" for this year's event and received the show's "Participation Award" for our 40th Anniversary display. We were also recognized for the club with the most cars which included a mix of old and new, thanks to the new cars loaned to us by Laura Buick GMC.
- The celebration continued in July with our Club BBQ and meeting at Love Park. Past members were invited and all chartered members and Past Directors were recognized. Charter members Jim Hall and Jeff Watkins were awarded Lifetime Membership for their continued membership and service to the club. It was an absolutely picture perfect day for the 61 members and guest to drive their special Buicks to the park. Great memories and food were shared by all while the mellow tunes of the Boney Goat Band played in the background.
- And finally in August, thanks to Ted Becker and Monica Ledwon we published a 40th Anniversary Edition of the Gazette which featured club history, the members and cars present at this year's celebration, and featured articles on our chartered members; Jim Hall, Bob Huff and Jeff Watkins.

Our biggest undertaking for the year, both financially and for the amount of effort dedicated, was the creation of our new website. Kristina Richards started this project with the help of Dennis Burkholder, of Mad Moose Media, who was contracted to design, build and maintain our website for the first year. From there Bill Landers spent numerous hours coordinating the efforts to transfer our old sites to the new along with Ted Becker who provided current and archived copies of member profiles and Gazettes. Please visit us at:
www.stlouisbuickclub.net

Above and beyond our 40th Anniversary and the development of a new website, our number one project with the most exposure and responsibility is the 2020 Regional Event. Pete Nathan, Bill Landers and I have been working as the preliminary team to get this project started. To date we have completed our review of area hotels and contracted with the Double-Tree Hilton in Chesterfield, MO to host the event. We have also submitted a request for financial support and sponsorship and have completed drafts of classes and art work for T-shirts and trophies.

In April, 2018 we had a change in Leadership, when our Director Kristina Richards return to college to work on her MBA. I moved away from my Secretary duties to take her place, and Bob Brasses stepped in to become our new Secretary. Kristina stayed on the Board and replaced John Lasinski as Past Director.

We had several changes to our Bylaws, club policies and traditions...

- We passed bylaws changes; to eliminate the “term-limits” for the Directors selected from the members at-large and we replaced the Activities Director position with a third Director selected from the members at-large. We also increased the expenditure approval amount from \$100.00 to \$200.00.
- We changed the start time for our club meetings from 7:30pm to 7:00pm, and in February, we added a short “all member check-in” at the beginning of each meeting to find out what members are working on, or to simply give them an opportunity to share.
- In an effort to cover this year’s expenses for our anniversary celebration, website development and the replacement of our club banner, we approved to increase our annual club dues from \$15.00 to \$25.00.
- And Monica Ledwon joined Ted Becker on the Gazette. Monica’s primary focus is writing member profiles for the Gazette.

And finally, continuing with our Club's tradition to support other clubs and those in need:

- In August we supported the Archway Olds Club with their "Memories on Main Street" show in Troy, Missouri.
- In September we sold snow cones, on a very cold day, at the Wheels in Motion Car Show and donated \$300.00 to The National Children's Cancer Society.
- In September we also provided snacks and supplies for the Ronald McDonalds pantry at Children's Hospital.
- In November we had our annual food drive with donations going to O.A.S.I.S. Food Pantry in St. Charles.
- And in December we had our annual Toys for Tots drive

As we look forward to 2019, our number one focus is the 2020 Regional.

Ready, Set, Go...!!!

REALITY: We must have all activities, registration forms and event shirts ready for distribution in August when we travel to Stillwater, MN. This year, it is most important that we have a large club presence at the Regional. Please make plans now to be there. We need to pitch our event, assist with theirs, and least but not last, we need to haul the regional trailer back to St. Louis.

I'm also working on two new events for this year's calendar; a mid-Missouri trip with the Mid-America Chapter and in October, a Cruise-to-the-wall (Vietnam Memorial) in Perryville, MO.

For now, let's take a deep breath, relax, continue to enjoy the Holidays, and join in for one last Holiday Party, January 13th, at CJ Muggs in Webster Groves, Starts at 4:00 pm, Be there...!!!

All for now...
Enjoy!

Chet

Meeting Minutes, December 2nd, 2018

- The December meeting was held at The Old Spaghetti Factory, Chesterfield, MO and was facilitated by Chet Palumbo, Director. 30 members were present.
- Chet opened the meeting with **The Pledge of Allegiance** of the United States and thanked everyone for attending.
- Chet also thanked everyone for their contributions to this year's Toys For Tots drive. After the meeting the toys will be dropped off at the 5 Below store in Chesterfield Valley.
- The November Meeting Minutes were approved as corrected. Chet, recorded John Midkiff as the winner of the 50/50 in error, John Regnier won \$18.00.

Member News:

- Doug Bremer is doing well, recovering from home.
- Kristina and Candace, moved into their new home last week.

Treasurer's Report: (No update)

BCA Club News:

- **National News: 2019 National Meet, Midwest City, OK, June 12 – 15, 2019**
 - ◊ Host Hotel is booked, Holiday Inn, next door, rooms available for less than \$119.00
- **Regional News: 2019 Regional Meet, Stillwater, Minnesota, August 21 – 24, 2019**
 - ◊ Hosted by the Fireball Chapter, registration information in the Gazette

Old Business: (None reported)

New Business:

- **2020 Regional Event: (no updates)**
 - ◊ Doubletree Hilton in Chesterfield, MO. The week on September 10th.
 - ◊ **Next Steps:** Financial planning, sponsorship and activities
- **2019 Event Planning,**
 - ◊ Joint event with the Mid America Chapter; in Columbia, Jefferson City or Booneville. Chet and Bob Tracy exchanging emails, Bob Tracy's term as Director is over.
 - ◊ Chet sent email to all club members requesting feedback on 2019 Events Calendar, only two members responded. (no update)
 - ◊ Updates: Ladies Luncheon; Ladies agreed it was okay to cancel.

Upcoming CLUB Events:

- **January 13 – Monthly Meeting / Holiday Party - CJ Muggs in Webster Groves,**
 - ◊ Address: 101 W. Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves 63119, (314) 963-1976
 - ◊ Starts at 4:00 pm

Upcoming Events (OTHER): (None reported)

50/50 Drawing: (None)

Next Meeting:

- **January 13 – Monthly Meeting / Holiday Party - CJ Muggs in Webster Groves,**
 - ◊ Address: 101 W. Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves 63119, (314) 963-1976
 - ◊ Starts at 4:00 pm

Christmas Party – 2018

By: Chet Palumbo



Thirty members and guest joined us for this year's Christmas Party at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Chesterfield, MO

Seated left to right:

Ginny and Bill Landers
Bob and Cheryl Merrick
Ted and Mary Becker
Richard and Vera Self
Sheree and Mark Kistner
John and Angie Midkiff
Geoff Lockett
Jeanne Palumbo
Pete Nathan
Not pictured: Chet Palumbo

Seated left to right:

Bob and Barbara Windal
Jeff Watkins
Bob and Barb Brasses
Adam and Atena Martin
Monica Ledwon
Rhonda and Aaron Ford
Nancy and Pat Pinkston
Damien Flaherty
Pat Bulfin
Not pictured: Scott Keller



Gifts donated for our annual Toys For Tots drive. After our party, toys were dropped off at the 5 Below store in Chesterfield Valley

Thanks again for all your support...!!!

Member Spotlight

Bob Merrick

By Monica Ledwon

This month's Member Spotlight features Bob Merrick, who has dual memberships in the Gateway Chapter Buick Club and the GS Club of America. Bob owns a 1986 Grand National and a 1971 GS 455 convertible.

Born on Shepherd Air Force base in Texas when his father was in the military, Bob later moved with his family to St. Louis. He was raised in and about the Manchester, Missouri region attending Parkway West high school and then graduating from Parkway North. He attained a BS in Finance and a MBA while attending SW Missouri State and has spent most of his career in IT Project Mgt.

His interest in cars was fostered by his dad and at the age of five, he began paying attention to automotive styling and performance details. The family car was a '63 Chevy Impala SS which was quite a grocery getter back in the day. Bob spent his high school years working as a porter for Seeger Toyota in Creve Coeur and began honing his mechanical skills with the light duties of oil changes and brake jobs for this foreign brand. He went on to work for Diamond Honda Motorcycle in the parts department during college.

Bob's first and most favorite car was a 1968 Pontiac Lemans Sprint which almost caused him to lose his initial driver's license with its powerful OHC 6 cylinder engine. In 1975 Bob traded the Lemans for a '71 GS V-8 convertible with a 350 Turbo Hydra-Matic and has kept it ever since. In 1981, Bob retired the GS with transmission issues to be solved at a later time. That happened in 1986 when he undertook a frame off restoration replacing all chassis parts, installing a Turbo Hydra-Matic 400 and transplanting a 455 V-8 engine from a '72 Electra in place of the stock 350. He took delight in running weekend races with the car out at Mid America in Wentzville.



Marriage and having a family of one son and one daughter tamed Bob's lifestyle for a time. He set his future sights on a mid-eighties Grand National and found an '86 in 1989 with 20K worth of mileage. That car was not purchased, though, due to a marital veto in favor of a 1989 Thunderbird for family transportation. Fast forward almost ten years to 1998. While looking in the free classified ad paper, The Thrifty Nickel, Bob's eyes landed on another 1986 Gran National for sale in Edwardsville, Illinois. It turned out to be the very same GN he had looked at in 1989 now with 40K on the odometer!

This sporty Buick was bought as basic stock. Bob added the performance upgrades of a transmission shift kit, bigger turbo and intercooler. For the past thirty-one years Bob has not missed going to the GS Nationals in Bowling Green, KY. Cars are his only hobby.

And, Bob's son Geoff, from the age of 10, has been following suit. Born in July 1986, Bob surprised his son after he'd completed military duty in the US Army, with a 1986 GN of his exact same vintage-- VIN verified to have been built in July 1986! Now they continue to go together to the GS Nationals, but with his son getting the best of Bob in the quarter mile.



Gazette Giggles



Gazette Centerfolds



Put a cigar in her mouth and she could be a 1954 version of Bonnie Parker. Actually, Santa's reindeer tried to run over this grandma, but she would have nothing of it.

Kustom Korner



This 1950 “Buick El Camino” comes from Thailand (of all places). Notice the right hand drive and the license plate.

Whoever built this car appears to be pretty skilled with his English Wheel and other metal working skills. Pretty impressive—ya think?

Buick Portholes: A 10-Minute History

The following article about Buick portholes comes from a really good website about all things cars. They cover new things coming out of Detroit as well as automotive history.

Check it out at www.macsmotorcitygarage.com sometime for some really interesting reading and viewing.



In the 1950s, every car-spotting kid could identify a Buick by the portholes in the front fenders. Here's some backstory on a novel styling feature that continues to this day.



In Buick lore, portholes came to be when noted General Motors stylist Ned Nickles designed and installed a set of round fender vents on his personal 1948 Roadmaster. As the story goes, Nickles incorporated small electric lamps (probably neon or similar) wired to the ignition system so they would flash in sequence with the engine. Reportedly, he was inspired by the flashing machine guns on World War II fighter aircraft. No one knew it at the time, but at that moment a Buick styling trademark was born.

Buick manufacturing boss Edward T. Ragsdale ridiculed the gimmick, saying it ruined the car, but general manager Harlow Curtice fell in love with it and ordered it into production on the 1949 models, a scant seven months away—but minus the flashing lamps. The '49 Roadmaster (convertible shown just above) carried four “Cruiser-Line Ventiports” (the official Buick term) per side, while the junior Super and Special sported just three per side.



So began the custom of three holes per side on lesser Buick models and four per side on the top-of-the line offerings, with slight tweaks from year to year. In the 1955 lineup (above) the Special (264 CID V8) featured three mouseholes in each front fender, while the Century, Super, and Roadmaster (322 CID V8) boasted four per side.



Ventiports were temporarily banished from the Buick look for 1958 and 1959, then returned in stylized form on the 1960 line. The 1961 Electra 225 Convertible above employs four streamlined ventiport slashes per side, naturally, while the LeSabre and Invicta got three, and even the little Skylark compact got into the act with three portholes per fender.

The signature styling feature continued all through the '60s, often as merely a stylized strip of bright metal fender trim. And since then, the Buick porthole has never really gone away. Just when we think it's finally been killed off forever, it returns as Buick stylists search for the perfect balance between innovation and convention. Notable reappearances of the ventiport include the 1987 GNX neo-muscle car and the 2003 Park Avenue Ultra. And if you look closely at the front fender of the 2017 LaCrosse pictured below, the ventiport tradition continues to this day.





<u>January Birthdays</u>	<u>January Anniversaries</u>
Atena Martin Chris Waltz Ed Keil Patricia Panus Rhonda Ford Richard Self Scott Keller Steve Dodson Vic Panus Ed Lanfer	Dave & Susan Pollmann John & Angie Midkiff



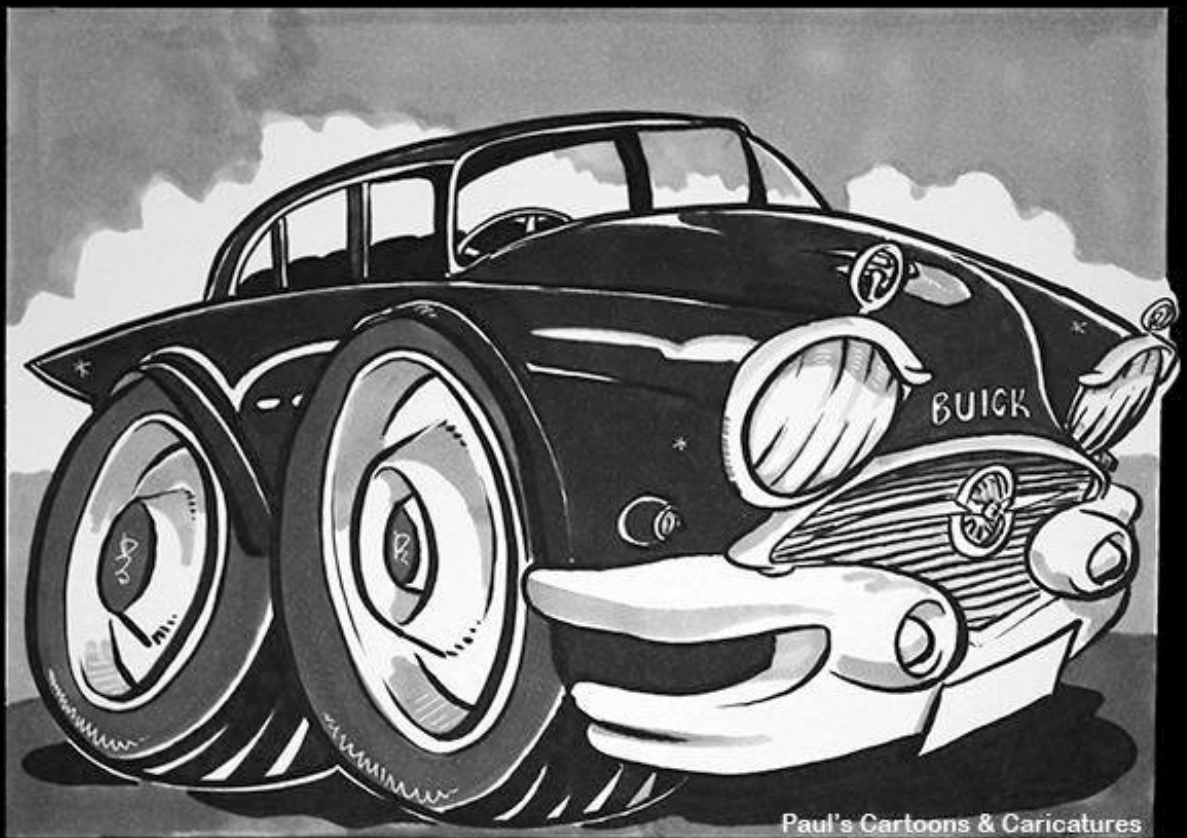
2019 Full Year Event Details::

January 13, 2019 – Monthly Meeting / Holiday Party

CJ Muggs in Webster Groves

Starts at 4:00 pm

Address: 101 W. Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves 63119, (314) 963-1976



2019 Heartland Regional

August 21 thru 24, 2019

30th Anniversary



Hosted by the Fireball Chapter
Buick Club of America

Event schedule on the back



2019 Heartland Regional

August 21 thru 24, 2019



Wednesday
August 21

4:00 p.m. driving tour to a car show in downtown Stillwater.

Thursday
August 22

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit a restoration facility and a guided driving tour through Wisconsin's wine country.

Friday
August 23

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Driving tour to visit a car memorabilia collection, the 45th Parallel Distillery and a cheese factory.

4:00p.m. to 7:30 Evening driving tour to a large community's car show.

Saturday
August 24

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Show and participant voting. The show field will be at Stillwater Motors, a Buick dealership family owned for 97 years.

Food will be available for purchase on the show field. Proceeds go to a local youth group.

10:00 a.m. One hour trolley tour of historic Stillwater.

Additional shuttles will be transporting participants to and from downtown Stillwater during the show.

2:00 p.m. Heartland Regional meeting at Stillwater Motors.

6:00 p.m. Awards banquet will be held while cruising on the St. Croix River. (The first National Scenic River in the United States)

Host Hotel	AmericInn
\$95 + tax	13025 60th Street, Oak Heights, Minnesota 55082
Includes breakfast	651-275-0980 or e-mail agm@hotelstillwater.com
Second Hotel	GrandStay Hotel and Suites
\$119 + tax	2200 West Frontage Road, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082
Includes breakfast	651-430-2699 or e-mail Stillwater@grandstay.net



Stillwater is an extremely busy tourist area. Do not wait to make reservations.



REV 7/13/18



Buick Club of America

2019 Heartland Regional Meet Registration

August 21—24, 2019 in Stillwater Minnesota



Member's Name _____

BCA Number (Required) _____

Not a BCA member ? You must become a BCA member at large for this event only.

Registration form will serve as an application \$5.00 _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Number _____ or Land Line _____

E-mail address _____

Chapter Affiliation (optional) _____

What name should appear on the name tag ? Member _____

Guest _____

Member and 1 guest without car _____ \$15.00 _____

Member and 1 guest with display car _____ \$20.00 _____

Member and 1 guest with show car _____ \$25.00 _____

Vehicle one _____ Judged _____ Display Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____ Class _____

Vehicle two _____ Judged _____ Display Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____ Class _____

Additional car (s) Judged _____ \$15.00 Display Only _____ \$ 10.00 List additional cars on separate sheet _____ Total \$ _____

There is no car corral. For sale signs are allowed on the field. I will need trailer parking _____ Cannot accommodate RVs.

Pre order T-shirts S to XL ___\$14, 2X to 4X___ \$16 Number by sizes S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL ___ \$4XL ___

\$ _____

Show Events (Reservation cut off is August 12, 2019 for events and banquet - There is no cut off for show car registration)

Wednesday August 21, 4:00 p.m. Driving tour to car show in downtown Stillwater (No charge) Number attending _____

Thursday August 22, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Driving tour restoration shop, WI wine country (No charge) Number Attending _____

Friday August 23, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Driving tour, memorabilia collection, distillery (No charge) Number Attending _____

4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Driving tour to a large community's car show (No charge). Number Attending _____

Saturday August 24, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Show and Participant Voting

11:00 a.m.to 12:00 p.m. Historic trolley tour of Stillwater, Adult \$14, Kids \$8 Adult No. ___ Kids No. ___ \$ _____

6:00 p.m. **Price includes River Cruise, Shuttle and Awards Banquet** Number _____ \$45.00 _____

Total for participant, member at large fee, historic trolley ride, t-shirts, car registration and banquet \$ _____

NO cancellation refunds after August 8, 2019 Administrative use only Check number _____ Registration number _____

When making the reservation tell them it is for the Buick Club NO elevators. If you have a walking problem request 1st floor.

HOST HOTEL \$95 + tax, includes breakfast

AmericInn

13025 60th Street North , Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

651-275-0980 or e-mail agm@hotelstillwater.com

Second Hotel \$119 + tax, includes breakfast

GrandStay Hotel and Suites

2200 West Frontage Road, Stillwater Minnesota 55082

651-430-2699 or e-mail Stillwater@grandstay.net



GATEWAY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND PROFILE SHEET

Annual Dues: \$25.00 to the Gateway Chapter,
Renewed: May of each year

(BCA Membership also required 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 _____
Email (required): _____
Profession: _____ Employer: _____ years _____
Spouse's Profession: _____ Employer: _____ years _____

Buick Club of America Information: <http://www.buickclub.org/join/>

You are required to be a BCA member. BCA # _____ (required)

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: _____

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

