



What I do with my Buick  
when not on a BDE  
Tour Issue!

# The Driving Force

Driving, Touring & Just Having Fun!

A Publication of the Buick Driving Enthusiasts  
Division of the Buick Club of America  
Winter -2017

## EXPERIENCING THE MECUM AUCTION

Roberta Vasilow - BDE #17

Well, it started out a few years ago as an innocent discussion with Paula Liska, as she was going to sell a Corvette at the Mecum Auction in Kissimmee, Florida, one January and I was watching it online, and the rest is history except, then she sold the green Buick a few years later, so I was really hooked on watching! And last September, we talked about attending the auction in January. Well, it happened!! She was in the midst of being able to retire from her job at the city of Kissimmee after 31 years! So it was time to practice retirement and she took the week off to hang with me at the Mecum Auction.

I flew in on Wednesday morning, (after snow blowing half a foot of snow the day before). It was nice to shed the coat, hat, gloves and long underwear for a few days! We arrived at the auction just after lunch and proceeded with the list of Buicks in hand to figure out what number they were on because the '91 Red Reatta Convertible (w/99 miles) was up sometime soon and we didn't want to miss it! When it appeared it was going to be awhile, we said 'let's go find it!' and



off to the staging area we went. Didn't make through first row, when a nice man asked if we could help him with the t-tops on an '87 Monte Carlo, and of course, would we hold the storage bags so he could put the tops in them and into the trunk. After taking care of that we continued to look for the Reatta! It wasn't in line where it should have been so we had to look some more and of course ran into some BDE folks! Jim Beal and Marshall Callard - that was cool! We found the red thing shortly thereafter and it was nice but (or butts) had sat in that driver's seat a lot for only 99 miles. Wednesday night we went to downtown Kissimmee to meet some of the Paula's friends and it was great to sit outside in January!!!



Thursday morning we went over to the auction, did you know we could almost walk there from Paula's? But we didn't, what we did was look at was a bunch of black Buicks - Grand Nationals, T's, GNX's, and a '69 GS400 decked out with rare Stage 2 stuff! We decided that the black Buicks we each have in our own garages were better than almost all the ones in line for auction! We took off that afternoon to run up to Leesburg, to check on my late aunt's home and see if there was anything that I could do for my brother to help him close out her estate. Wasn't much we could do, but I did come home with a Buick! The neighbor had a couple of hot wheels cars that she had had and one was a purple '65 Riviera!!

Friday and Saturday are the big money days for the auction and we watched a lot of money get spent. Friday, the Buicks especially the GNs didn't get a lot of \$\$\$ but we did see my friend and neighbor sell his '67 Corvette for \$155K, which was awesome, and a '41 Buick Super (restored by Doug Seybold) that went for \$80K. We also did the Dodge experience where we got to go fast around a small road track in a new Dodge, which was fun too! Friday we were able to meet Ann Bell and her daughter, son-in-law and Jim Brayton in rainy downtown Kissimmee for lunch and then again for cocktails at the Holiday Inn near Old Town where the Gulf Coast Chapter BCA was having a meeting. On Saturday, a '48 Super Convertible went for \$53K and there were a bunch of Buicks that "the bid goes on" that didn't sell. Saturday we also were joined by Paula's nephew Todd, whom I hadn't seen since the BCA Nationals in Buffalo, NY in 2001. He likes Chevy trucks and so we looked at Buicks, trucks, Jaguars, Cadillacs and all kinds of other cars and we watched the auction some more. It is fascinating how organized and it works like a well oiled machine. We left to go crash the Gulf Coast Chapter Dinner at Logan's near Old Town, where we got to see a bunch of BDE folks, Sid & Belva Meyer, Ellen & John Cavanaugh, Jim Brayton, Dave and Cyvia Snyder, Ann and her crew, and few more . . . that was fun too!



See you in May!

My neighbor thinks we are crazy to go to Traverse City in May.  
He asked "aren't you afraid of the weather?"  
"Hell, no! but it is Michigan!"

(Editor's Note: Being a "Mecum Veteran"  
I advised Roberta the best deal was Bidder's Pass -  
which allowed us both to attend every day at the auction, plus  
access to the auction floor and great places to sit and watch.  
But Roberta made me sit on my hands  
and keep my mouth shut!)





# Messages

## FROM OUR SENIOR DIRECTOR

The Riviera is tucked away & Kathy & I are in Florida, along with many of you, enjoying the warm weather. Michigan has not been as bad as usual, but it is still good to get away. This is Kathy's first major outing since her second knee operation at the end of October & all is going well.

We still have openings for our BDE tour "Cherry Blossoms and Lakes" beginning May 15, 2017 in the Traverse City, MI area, and encourage any who are thinking about coming to do so. Hope all of you are in good health. (Registration form in this issue)

**JOHN DAILY - BDE #365**



**Hello from OUR MID DIRECTOR - FRANK Cwikla - BDE #302 (Left)**

**OUR JUNIOR DIRECTOR - RICH GIBBS -BDE #144**

(Right) - has contributed a great article on his '59 Electra. Check it out in this issue!



**AND FROM OUR HISTORIAN - FRAN PASCH - BDE #257 (Left)**

Are you coming to Traverse City in May, and would you like to see a particular tour album? It seems that someone is always asking to see a particular album and I usually don't have it along. I always bring the last National and Fall albums and then fill in with others. This will be a short trip for us this year. Please call or email me with your requests - 989.463.5072 or [franp36@hotmail.com](mailto:franp36@hotmail.com)  
Thanks, Fran



**ACTING AS TAIL GUNNER FOR THIS ISSUE - EDITOR, PAULA LISKA - BDE #2**

Special thanks to all our contributors to the special issue: **John Daily, Connie Brumbaugh, Barney Eaton, Al Eichelberger, Rich Gibbs, Linda Hall, Jack Horvath, Steve Ledger, Isabel Lenny, Bob & Diane Miles, Fran Pasch, Bob Reed, Larry Splane, Charlie Steffy, Roberta Vasilow** and anyone I may have missed.

It's time for the election of officers for the BDE. Please review the candidates bios on the "It's Election Time" on Page 4.

Also, one of our BDE members, Roberta Vasilow - BDE #17, is running for the Buick Club of America (BCA) Board of Directors. Read her bio on Page 6. It would be great to have BDE representation on this board.

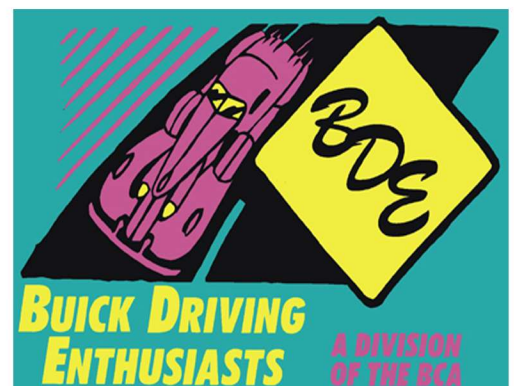
Remember - This is YOUR newsletter, and contributions from YOU, our members are needed and appreciated. With your help we can do a great newsletter together!

Send your "stuff" to - [kliska@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kliska@cfl.rr.com)

The Driving Force is distributed via email with a link to the newsletter, to help keep production costs down. However, if you would like yours mailed via USPS, please let me know.

Thanks in advance,  
Paula Liska BCA #6397, BDE #2 - [Kliska@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Kliska@cfl.rr.com)

*"BDE - Buick Driving, Eating and Just Having Fun!"*



*More  
Messages*



## And from our Membership Chairperson - Isabel Lenny - BDE #222

"We have experienced another mild winter in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, but will it last? We have had snow in April in the past. We hope you all made it through the winter months without any major problems.

We presently have 115 members who renewed their dues for 2017. As of this writing, 15 people did not renew, including: **Marshall and Diane Callard, Phil and Aretha Cantrell, Dorn Cobbledick, John Cover, Ernest Grant Jr. and A.E.Chon, Paulette Haggan, John and Jennifer Hannon, Bill and Marlene MacLaughlin, Max Miller, Alan and Joy Oldfield, Dave and Becky Pettingill, Ambrose and Lorene Reuter, Sr., King and Peggy Schaedel, Dale Weber and Marie Fatone, and Don Winebarger.**

This will be the last newsletter for those who have not renewed. We hope you will continue your membership.

Dick Packer has resigned his membership.

### Please welcome the following new members:

Winfred Bold - BDE #424  
1118 N. Pontiac Drive  
Janesville, WI 53545-1332  
Email: wkbald@sbcglobal.net

Steve and Wendy Cooley - BDE #425  
9513 E. 780 Road  
Martinsville, IL 62442  
Email: swcooley2@gmail.com

### Please make the following address changes to your roster:

John and Ellen Cavanaugh - BDE #007  
8400 Vamo Road. Apt. 1260  
Sarasota, FL 34240

Steve and Angie Goff - BDE #363  
15701 Hidden Falls Drive  
Moseley, VA 23120

Hope to see you all in Michigan.

Isabel Lenny

### BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS - ELECTED OFFICERS 2016

<b>Senior Director:</b>	<b>John Daily</b>	1043 Bluebell, Davison, MI 48423	810.658.0126	esydr7@aol.com
<b>Co-Director:</b>	<b>Frank Cwikla</b>	1909 Goodin Road, Friendship, WI 53934	608.339.6297	kaycwikla@gmail.com
<b>Co-Director:</b>	<b>Rich Gibbs</b>	1150 NW Sunset Lane, Topeka, KS 66618	785.230.6794	tripleturbine@cox.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Shar Kile</b>	2492 Lorrie Lane, Marietta, GA 30066	770.977.7924	sbkile@bellsouth.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Connie Brumbaugh</b>	145 Oak Lane, Williamsburg, PA	814.832.2108	broomie66@aol.com

### BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS - APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### Membership Chairperson:

**Isabel Lenny** 1008 S Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103 610.434.2430 lugnuts36@icloud.com

**Chaplain:** **Guy Greene** 12815 Sand Holly, San Antonio, TX 78253 210.674.2817 guy\_green@yahoo.com

**Club Sales:** **Bruce & Shar Kile** 2492 Lorrie Lane, Marietta, GA 30066 770.977.7924 sbkile@bellsouth.net

**Historian:** **Fran Pasch** 102 Grove Avenue, Alma, MI 48801 989-463-5072 franp36@hotmail.com

**Editor:** **Paula Liska** 1424 Dogwood Court, Kissimmee, FL 34744 407.873.7262 kliska@cfl.rr.com

**Webmaster:** **Roberta Vasilow** 6186 Torrey Road, Flint, MI 48507 810.655.8277 buickracer@comcast.net



## ***It's Election Time . . .***

The election of officers shall be at the National Tour. All members in good standing shall be given proper notice in the "Driving Force". In addition to the candidates presented by the nominating committee, any BDE member in good standing may nominate any other BDE member in good standing from the floor during the election process at the Annual Business Meeting for any elective office that currently requires a replacement officer. The nominated member must be aware of the duties of that office, and must be willing to serve. Should a member be nominated from the floor, and said member is not physically present at the meeting, a letter authorizing permission for his or her nomination must be presented to the senior director at the time of the nomination. Officers will take office after they are elected at the National Tour except for the treasurer who will serve for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The term in office shall be: co-directors three years, with one elected each year. Secretary and treasurer; two years.

A co-director and secretary are to be elected this year. Here are the candidate bios:



### **Greetings from the Sunshine State!**

I am sad to report that I will not be able to attend the 2017 National Tour in Michigan this year...just too much going on. But I would like to throw my hat in the ring for Co-Director. Having been a member since 2006 and co-hosted two Fall Tours I feel that I can do a good job keeping BDE on the road.

I have been a BCA member since 1992 and a BDE member since 2006. I blame the Buick connection on my Grandfather. He opened a Buick dealership in Lititz, PA in 1927. And the rest is history. My first "collector Buick" is the 1919 H 45 touring I inherited when my father passed away in 1992. I still have it and still make the annual drive up to the huge AACA National Fall Meet in Hershey in it. My other Buicks at this time are my Mom's 1990 Electra T Type and a 1982 Riviera convertible. Many of you have seen these cars on the BDE tours.

I joined the BDE because I love driving these older cars. Other than the 10 BDE tours I have been on, I have participated in 3 AACA Glidden Tours, 3 AACA Sentimental Tours, 5 AACA Founder's Tours and 9 Antique Studebaker Club annual Fall Roundups. The people who DRIVE cars, the places we see, the memories we make...THAT is what the car hobby is all about.

I am fortunate to have made so many Car Friends all over the world. I will do my best to make sure the BDE continues to be a strong and active part of the Buick Club of America.

Thank you for your consideration,  
**Charlie Steffy - BDE #374**



### **Hello BDE members.**

Once again it's time to fill two positions on the Board. Elections will be held at the General Membership Meeting to be held during our tour in Michigan in May.

I have been the Secretary for the past two years and would accept the nomination again. If elected, I will continue to do all I can to help the Division keep moving forward.

Thank you for your vote of confidence,  
**Connie Brumbaugh - BDE #143**



## The Electra

### Rich Gibbs BDE #144

Officially it designated an Electra 4 Door Hardtop (Model 4739). My brother calls it the "Space Shuttle"...the winged rear fenders. My first view of the Electra was from our living room picture window, from above. That angle really accentuates the fender lines and overall style. I was eleven years old and thought the Electra was the wildest looking car I had ever seen. My grandparents, Fred and Lila Allen had just returned home from their annual stay in the Phoenix area during the worst winter weather. They had stopped by to drop off grapefruit and gifts from Arizona. I was just interested in the car.



Grandfather Fred Allen and '57 Roadmaster  
White Sands, NM - 12/58

When they left for Phoenix, they were driving a '57 Desert Beige Roadmaster 4-dr HT. Since new, the Roadmaster has given trouble with various issues and finally it developed one last problem that my grandfather would not put up with. He traded the Roadmaster for the Electra at Tony Coury Buick in Mesa, early January 1959. The Electra was on the showroom floor. It is equipped with the standard Electra accessories in addition to air-conditioning/automatic heater-defroster and accessory groups that included 6-way power seat. Other options on the car are Wonder Bar radio with rear seat speaker, power antenna but not power windows. The color is Turquoise with Arctic White top, interior trim is "Light Gray Mojave Cloth with Cordaveen Bolster", Code 731. The car was built at the Arlington, TX plant in late 1958.



Grandparents Fred & Lila Allen  
and new '59 Electra  
Phoenix, AZ - Early '59



(Left) Grandparents & '59 Electra near Prescott, AZ - Early '59  
(Right) Helen Hendrickson (grandfather's niece), Minnie Schwab (grandfather's sister) and Grandfather -  
On Boulder Dam - Early '59



I have been asked, "So, why all the Buicks?" I must be hereditary because my folks had a '34 Buick, Model 57 when they were married. They purchased a '55 Special Riviera Sedan new and drove it until 1970. My grandparents had a '38 Special Sedan which my grandfather used the engine and transmission to power a Lincoln arc welder; '42 Special Sedan that was purchased December 12, 1941 (I have the original sales document for this one), '52 Special Sedan, the '42 was traded for this car, '55 Special Riviera Sedan, '57 Roadmaster Riviera Sedan, the '59 Electra, '72 LeSabre Sedan and finally my grandmother's last car, an '85 Skylark Sedan. However, the '59 Electra stayed in the garage even though the other Buicks were traded. Whenever I would visit my grandparents, I would go to the garage and sit in the Electra and admire the instrument panel layout.

In 1980 my grandfather and I agreed on a price and I purchased the Electra. I think he was saving it for me since he never sold it. I kept the car in their garage for over a year since I didn't have any place to store the car. I drove the car home in 1981 and had to store it outside since I didn't have a garage. I had no intention of restoring the Electra since it was still in good shape. It had a few "granny dents", but was presentable. In 1983, I had the Electra at my brother's place to re-work the brake system. While there, a tornado went through his neighborhood and damaged the Electra severely.



Car stripped and ready for body work -  
10/85



Engine compartment after clean-up -  
12/85



During body work -  
12/85 - 3/86



During body work -  
12/85 - 3/86

The body had to be repaired and repainted, windshield and rear window replaced and all chrome trim repaired or replaced. I started the repairs in fall of 1985 and finished the car in time for the 1986 BCA National in Indianapolis. This was my first BCA National meet. That same year I drove the Electra to my 20th high school reunion. I took my date to my high school graduation dance in the Electra.



At the east entrance of Yosemite Park -  
7/91

Besides the 1986 trip to Indianapolis, I have driven the Electra to the 1988 BCA National in Flint, MI; Sacramento, CA for the 1991 BCA National; 1993 BCA National in Phoenix, AZ. While there, I took the Electra back to the dealer, Tony Coury Buick in Mesa, AZ.

*(Rich's story continues on the next page. More photos, too!)*



Tony Coury Jr. and me at  
his dealership - 7/93





**The Electra** *(continued from previous page)*  
*Rich Gibbs BDE #144*

Flint Centennial in 2003 was a highlight since there were so many other '59s attending. The longest trip I have taken in the Electra was to 2007 BCA National in Seattle, 4,500 mile round trip.

The largest gathering of '59s occurred at the 2009 BCA National in Colorado Springs. 32 Fifty-Nines attended that meet. The 59 Division held a tour and dinner banquet in Canon City as part of the meet.

I look forward to may more car shows and trips in the Electra, my old friend.



## BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

Well, it's been 20 years since I put my name in the mix for the Buick Club Board of Directors, but I thought I might just do it again to help take the Buick Club to the next level. The challenges of 20 years ago have changed slightly, but they still include how to get younger members involved and move the Club into the next generation. I have a niece and four nephews who have been exposed to the Buick Club through me and my parents, and occasionally their parents. The second youngest nephew could drive this year, if he is so inclined. Will he want to help his father with his Buicks and maybe be able to drive one someday or just keep playing on the computer? If we can figure this out, we can save the world!



My previous experience with the Buick Club of America includes being on the Board of Directors from 1997 to 2003, serving as President, Vice President and Treasurer. I've been a member for 30 years, BCA #16798. Other experiences in the Buick world include being Director of the Michigan Buick Performance Club (Michigan Chapter of the Gran Sport Club of America) from 1990 to forever, Co-promoter of Buick Race Day at Summit Motorsport Raceway Park (Norwalk, Ohio) for 25 years ('90-'15), Co-coordinator of the 2008 BCA National Meet in Flint, Michigan, past Buicktown Chapter Director, Assistant Director, Webmaster, Membership Chair and Editor. I am also a charter member (#17) of the Buick Driving Enthusiasts Division of the BCA as well as their Webmaster. Although, I never worked for Buick Motor Division, I worked for General Motors for just over 30 years. Retired since 2009, and still living near Flint, I was close! I now have 9 Buicks and have owned 30 all together. I have lots of parts and literature and enjoy helping people with their projects, as well as working on my own.

Having been a Buick Club member for three decades and wondering what I can do to continue to support the club and the endeavors of the membership, I look forward to representing the membership in the coming years.

Thanks for your friendship and support.

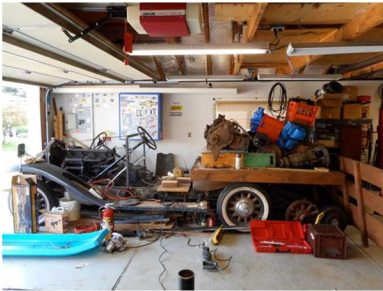
**ROBERTA VASILOW** - BCA #16798, BDE #17



## Larry Splane's 1932 Buick Truck

Larry Splane - BDE #362

Check out my 1932 Buick truck! Yes, I know that Buick never built a truck in 1932, but in the fall of 2015, I decided to use my collection of various 1932 parts to create a truck. It pretty much started with my wife's ultimatum ... "Do something with that chassis that you've had for 30 years, or get rid of it!"



*This is what I started with*

Of course, getting rid of a perfectly good 1932 Buick 60 Series chassis was out of the question; so much to my wife's dismay, I started my project. As collector of '32 Buicks (I've owned 5), I've acquired quite an assortment of parts. Additionally, as a Buick enthusiast, I've purchased a few parts, over the years, at the Hershey swap meets in Pennsylvania. And so begins my truck building story...



*Starting to look like a truck*

For the body, I used wood pieces from a deck my daughter and son-in-law were tearing out, and purchased a few additional sheets of plywood at a garage sale. The seat is made out of an old workbench that I had. I covered it with foam from the foam factory, and a piece of black vinyl I was able to get at Michael's, with a 60% off coupon.



*First time out of the garage*

While helping my daughter turn in an old car at a local junkyard, I was able to collect \$125 for her, and talk the manager into giving me a free bumper for my project. The only parts that I bought new are the windshield and the taillights! I finally completed my truck-building project in the Spring of 2016.

Many times, my wife asked, "Why are you doing this?" My response, "Because I can!" It was a fun adventure for me.

I've taken my truck to a couple of local car shows. It's actually kind of fun to drive!

I also belong to the McLaughlin Buick Club of Canada. It is very similar to the BDE Club. We go out and drive our cars and do some type of event each day.



*Looks good, even from the back*



*Hand painted with a brush*



*First Car Show!*

### It's what I do with my Buicks

Bob Miles (edited by Diane) - BDE #378

The '41 and '70 are driven (weather permitting) to a local restaurant weekdays to meet at 10 a.m. with "The Rusty Zipper Group" aged 78 to 92 .

The '39 is in the hospital.

This about the most excitement we need at this time of life.



*You can dress them up,  
but they still act the same . . .  
just having fun with the BDE!*



## What I do with my Buicks between BDE Meets

*Linda Hall, BDE #227*



*Linda's '78 Riv*



*Linda's '58*



*Linda's '38*

For me in Australia, it is usually a long time between BDE Meets. I would need to win the lottery to come to the United States every year!! But in Australia, the Buick Club is almost as long established as the BCA in America. We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary of the Buick Club in Australia this year.



My State Buick Club, Buick Car Club of Australia (Queensland), holds a Buick run every month. We visit interesting places around our area usually stopping for Morning Tea and lunch at a country pub. (Much like the BDE we are usually stopping for FOOD!)

Our February run started from Booval, about 30 miles west of Brisbane. The run took us out through some rural areas to a little town called Boonah where we stopped for Morning Tea and of course lots of chatting.

From Boonah, we headed south west on a very pleasant country road, past Lake Maroon, and on to the small country village of Rathdowney located over the range in the hinterland of the famous Gold Coast.



It was a very hot day so by the time we got to Rathdowney we were all looking for a nice cold beer. Everyone enjoyed a great lunch - country pubs always do a great lunch - and yes, more chatting. We are a friendly bunch of people here - very much like the BDE'ers.



A great day was had by all and the Riviera now sits in the shed ready for her next outing.

Wouldn't it be great if I could drive the Riviera to a BDE Meet?

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## Update from Barney and Nancy

*Barney Eaton - BDE # 382*

We will probably continue to be members of the BDE, but do to Nancy's Parkinsons, it is unlikely that we will be able to tour. Last year Nancy had decided not to go to Allentown because she would be unable to go to the room if she got tired at the show, so she stayed at her sisters in Indiana and my brother went to Allentown with me. The night before leaving Indiana, Nan had a problem that turned out to be pneumonia, she had inhaled a food particle that abscessed in her lung causing the pneumonia. She was in St. Vincence in Indianapolis for a week, then another 3 weeks of antibiotics. She is still in pretty good condition but she gets concerned about being away from home (and her Doctor). I hope to go to Milwaukee this year but that will probably be a last minute decision.

One last thing that might be of interest to BDE members, as BCA technical advisor for Reattas, I started helping Reatta owners repair their power antennas..... this has spilled over into my repairing many power antennas for all year GM cars. I have done a couple for John Cavanaugh. If anyone has a non-working power antenna contact me at [Barney@texas.net](mailto:Barney@texas.net) and I can discuss their problem. I have also been a distributor for Covercraft car covers since 1982. I don't advertise anymore but can supply any product that is made by Covercraft. They have over 70,000 custom patterns and I have had many new patterns made for collectable cars.....not just Buicks. Check online at [covercraft.com](http://covercraft.com)



## My Buick and the Pyramid House

Steve Ledger, BDE #410

Last summer I had the opportunity to visit The World Famous Pyramid House in Wadsworth Illinois. This is the only time car enthusiasts were invited to show their classic cars and tour the living quarters. The photos show me at the feet of, and my Buick in front of the 64' tall statue of Ramses II, and accepting the award given for the best Buick.

*"The six-story-tall, 17,000-square-foot Gold Pyramid House in Wadsworth, Illinois has to be one of the most bizarre homes ever constructed. Its builders, Jim and Linda Onan explain in three nouns and two adjectives what their unique home represents: 'Power, Gold, Mystery, Exotic, and Impressive.' The Onans are subscribers to the seventies cult theory of 'pyramid power.' Their home is believed to be the largest 24-karat gold-plated object in North America. Located on an island and surrounded by a giant moat, the Pyramid House has many remarkable features, including a 50-foot statue of King Tut, a metal palm tree and, a four car garage topped by three smaller pyramids." - Credit: Atlas Obscura*



## Our Buick and the USO

Jack Horvath - BDE #373

In addition to our many other volunteer activities, Pat and I are busy with volunteering at the USO.

Here is our 1976 LeSabre in the Atlanta Veteran's Day Parade. We participate in the parade with USO signs every year. This year (2106) celebrated the USO's 75th Anniversary, and this year the annual parade and banquet were dedicated to USO. The USO van in the pictures is one of the four USO mobile canteens which travel to military locations all around the USA. Our LeSabre led the parade, followed by the USO mobile canteen van.



(Left) Jack with a visitor to our USO publicity tent in a Kroger parking lot where there are tents of many NASCAR vendors.

(Right) Pat with a race car at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.



(Ed. Note: Google - [twomillionmilesfobadroads](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twomillionmilesfobadroads) Horvath - to see Jack's Vietnam trucking video from fifty years ago)



## Buicks and Other GM Cars - Including One Very Special One

*(Hint: It's Not a Buick)*  
Al Eichelberger - BDE #51



The car that started all the Buick Club stuff (*above left - ACE 2 tags*) was ordered as a Christmas present for my Mom - arriving December 23, 1964. It became my high school graduation present in 1981!

How good are your find the cars in the garage skills? Included are a '65 Riviera, '66 Riviera, '69 Skylark Convertible, '63 Starfire hardtop, '63 Bonneville Convertible, Mom's '65 Skylark Convertible, '58 Limited Convertible, '58 Roadmaster Model 75 Convertible, '65 Skylark Convertible with 425 Nailhead under the hood and Super Turbine 400 transmission, and '63 Pontiac X-400 Convertible. All of the restored cars, other than plating and upholstery on some cars, were restored by Bill Schoening and me.

So, what is that yellow Pontiac convertible (*above center photo*)? It's a '63 X-400, concept car that was built by GM Styling for the 1963 Auto Show Circuit to publicize the Pontiac brand. The engine is a supercharged Pontiac 421 that Pontiac had racer Mickey Thompson build. It's a four speed car. The car was used in two episodes of the My Three Son's TV show (black and white era) and displayed at the LA Auto Show and others. GM/Pontiac sold it to a dealer who sold it to a customer. It was driven hard for a number of years. Bill found it in the early 1980's and has been an ongoing restoration, with both of us working on it since the early 1980's with a great deal of the work happening 2006-2015. The X-400 was invited and displayed at Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance in March 2015.



Here is an original GM Photo showing the X-400 in the transport plane that GM/Pontiac used to fly the car from Detroit to LA for the LA Auto show and also the My Three Son's gig. Must be something about Pontiacs (so nice to ride in nice comfortable plane and avoid the traffic) taking the easy way across country. After all "Buick's were made to be Driven." The GM guy had to ride in the X-400 on the cross country flight - no seats in a cargo plane - Bill had the opportunity to talk to him in the 1980's when he first bought the car.

One X-400 show car was built each year for 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963 and 1964. Only the 1963 and 1960 X-400s survive. GM Vice President of Styling Bill Mitchell supervised the construction of the 1963 X-400. It is understood that he and other executives used the car occasionally on the street. The car was exhibited by GM at the Los Angeles and Chicago Auto Shows.

*(Editor's Note: For the complete story of this car, check out Bill Schoening's website [www.1963pontiacx400.com](http://www.1963pontiacx400.com) History, logs, photos, restoration and more. You'll be glad you did.)*

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### Hello from Bob Reed - BDE #288

Guys:

I sold my 1940 Buick Super sedan. Do not have an antique car. I am 81 and Mary Frances is 83. Love the old Buicks, but alas, Mary had her right knee replaced last month and is now healing slowly. We still have our 2008 Buick Lucerne sedan and the 2005 Buick LeSabre LTD sedan.

Happy motoring!!

Bob & Mary Frances Reed



Something to Sell? Swap? Buy?

Send your information and photos to Paula Liska, Editor - Kliska@cfl.rr.com

Ads run free for BDE members for 4 editions and photos will be included as space permits.

Be sure to include contact information in your ad. Ad may be edited due to space constraints.

**FOR SALE:** 1990 Buick Reatta Convertible - Red, red, white top. 95,000 miles, 3,000 on tires. Top replaced June 2008, repainted and correctly pin striped four years ago. Asking \$15,000. For more details please contact **JOHN CAVANAUGH**, BDE #7 at 941.350.2150 (cell) or 941.343.0016 (home) or john@cavanaughcompany.com



**FOR SALE:** 1970 Buick Electra 225, triple black, interior is in great shape, no cracks or tears. New woodgrain on dash at radio and heater controls. New battery, new radiator. New battery tray and core support panel. Gas tank boiled and painted. Floor boards and trunk floor rebuilt. New carpet inside and trunk. New shocks and tires (5). Complete new paint – 2 stage. Engine compartment detailed, new hood insulation (some parts powder coated. Power windows, seat and top all operable. It has good brakes and strong 455 engine. Underside cleaned and painted. Great touring car and it would do well in National judging. **JOHN WILLIAMS**, BDE #210 jjwilliams@consolidated.net or 217.345.9614



**FOR SALE:** 1970 LeSabre Custom 2 Dr hardtop, bamboo cream with white top (never vinyl). I am the second owner with full documentation. Full power, cruise control, factory air, 350-4, 58K miles. Too much more to list. Pictures available via email. If you want a turnkey car to show and go don't miss this one. You may have seen it at Allentown for BCA 50th or Lancaster PA BDE tour. Car located in northern Virginia, 10 miles from Dulles Int Airport. Fly in and drive it home. Asking price \$19,500 or best reasonable offer. **PAUL PUFF**, BDE #245. 703.263.7436 or puffrivconv@cox.net



### Have you ever had a ride on a cloud?

The ride on a 1985 Buick Riviera comes pretty close with Factory equipped torsion bar suspension in the front, and Air Pillow suspension in the rear.

The original transmission offers four speeds through an oil coupling that continues to offer smoothness with each shift and reduced engine revolutions and the forth speed providing economy up to 26 miles per gallon!

This 1985 Riviera 44,000 miles has never been driven winters, has new tires, battery, and factory option wheels. It's a Great Long distance car with up to 26 mpg - it's a steal at \$7800. The owner loves the car but has turned too old to travel distances required by the hobby.

**CLIFFORD HEROLD**, BDE #45 - 119 Eastdale Drive Howell, MI 48843 517.546.2145.



**FOR SALE:** 1996 Riviera: Diamond White with excellent Burgundy leather interior. 106K. Supercharged, chrome wheels, astrorooftop. Garage kept. Not driven in winters; used only for BDE tours. Cold AC. \$6,000. **ED LENNY**, BDE # 222, BCA # 7534. Allentown, PA. Contact Jed at 610-770-0532 or Email: info@auto-motives.com



## BELL BUICK PARTS

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**YOUR NAME**  
City, State

**BDE #**

**BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS**  
A DIVISION OF THE BCA

## OFFICIAL BDE NAME BADGES

Gold Color with Black type

1.5" x 3"

Only \$8 each - including shipping and handling

Indicate your Name, City, State and BDE #

(Specify pin back or magnetic preferred)

SEND FORM AND CHECK TO:

Buick Driving Enthusiasts

2492 Lorrie Drive, Marietta, GA 30066-5720

BADGE # 1 (Please print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

BDE # \_\_\_\_\_

Where would you like your badges sent?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BADGE #2 (Please print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

BDE# \_\_\_\_\_

CUT HERE



2000 BDE Fall Tour - St. Augustine, Florida

2002 BDE Fall Tour - Duncansville, Pennsylvania



*Save the Dates!*

2017 Buick Driving Enthusiasts National Meet

"Cherry Blossoms & Lakes"

May 15 - 19, 2017 - Traverse City, MI

(Registration Form in this Issue)

2017 Buick Driving Enthusiasts Fall Tour

"Music City Memories"

September 10 - 15, 2017 - Nashville, TN

(Registration Form in this Issue)





# **“CHERRY BLOSSOMS & LAKES”**

## **BDE 2017 NATIONAL TOUR**

Hotel/Resort registration information will be sent after receiving paid registration  
Rooms \$117 Standard Single/Double, \$159 Suite

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_ BCA# \_\_\_\_\_ BDE# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Phone

Number \_\_\_\_\_

### **MEET REGISTRATION LIMITED TO THE FIRST 60 BUICKS**

Buick Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$30 Single \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional guest(s) at \$5.00/person (ALL GUESTS MUST BE A BCA MEMBER OR MEMBER AT LARGE – SOP 6-24) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, May 14 EARLY Early birds! Enjoy the many attractions of the area on your own**  
**Registration packets available @1:00-4:00pm, 6:30-9:30pm**

**Monday, May 15 Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park**  
**National Park Admission Per Car, Pay at Visitors Center**  
**Sr (62+) Lifetime pass - \$10 (N/C if you bring one), Regular Day Pass - \$15**  
**Lunch on your own**

**Tuesday, May 16** Music House Museum..... number of people @ \$10 ea \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chateau Chantal Winery ...number of people @ \$4 ea \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch .....number of people @ \$20 ea \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
#Cherry Chicken Salad Wrap \_\_\_\_\_ #Pulled Pork Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_  
# Fish Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_  
Old Mission Light House..... N/C

**Wednesday, May 17** Hagerty Garage Tour..... N/C  
Lunch @ Boones Long Lake Inn-number of people @ \$25 ea \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# Small Prime Rib\_\_\_ # White Fish\_\_\_ # Chicken Planks\_\_\_  
Moomers Home Made Ice Cream Shop Tour #people @ \$4 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, May 18** Tunnel of Trees Drive to Cross Village N/C  
Lunch on your own.

**Friday, May 19** Village at Grand Traverse Commons, lunch on your own.  
Farewell Banquet - (Cash Bar) number of people @\$38 ea \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# Chicken Mornay\_\_\_ #Beef Medallions\_\_\_ #Whitefish Pecan\_\_\_

*Total for one couple doing all is \$232, single doing all is \$121*

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE COMPLETE & SIGN THE REVERSE SIDE – OVERVIEW OF EACH DAYS TOUR**



**MONDAY, MAY 15:** Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, MI. The 71,000 acre park includes the Hart visitor center & self directed Pierce Stocking 7.4 mile scenic drive within the park. The visitor center has a natural history museum & a slide presentation about the park. The park encompasses a 64 mile stretch of Lake Michigan's eastern coastline with forests, beaches, massive sand dunes, and 460 foot high bluffs. The park drive features stunning panoramas of the rolling dunes, Lake Michigan, & Glen Lake. Afterwards, participants can choose to have lunch in nearby Empire or Glen Arbor. Return on your own.

**TUESDAY, MAY 16:** Music House Museum: An extensive collection of the finest and rarest restored automated musical instruments. Located inside a complex of renovated farm buildings, the museum offers a 90 minute guided tour that explains & demonstrated the instruments that run on a continuous basis. We will then drive up Old Mission Peninsula to Chateau Chantal Winery where we will have a brief tour of the facilities. The winery is perched high atop the peninsula in one of the most scenic areas of the Great Lakes. Afterwards we will have lunch at a local restaurant. We will than continue on up the 20 mile long narrow peninsula to Old Mission Lighthouse, built in 1870, for a brief visit. The hilly peninsula juts out into Grand Traverse Bay, in places is less than a mile wide, & primarily consists of cherry orchards & wineries. Return on your own.

**WED, MAY 17:** Hagerty Garage tour: We will tour the facility in Traverse City which will include a brief presentation about Hagerty & light refreshments (coffee, fruit, bakery items). We will go to lunch in the area following the visit. After lunch, we will drive to Moomers, voted America's best ice cream shop in May 2008 by Good Morning America. There we will have a brief tour of the homemade ice cream shop, and an opportunity to enjoy your choice of 120 flavors of premium ice cream. This day will confirm the "BDE" stands for the Buick Driving & Eating club. After leaving Moomers, enjoy the sights of down town Traverse City on your own.

**THURSDAY, MAY 18:** Tunnel of Trees: This will be the longest drive day. We will drive north along Lake Michigan thru Petoskey to Harbor Springs where we will begin our famous 21 mile drive thru the "Tunnel of Trees" to Cross Village. This road is covered by overhanging maple & oak tree branches forming a tunnel over the rural, narrow, twisting paved road. Scenic views will include high overlooks of Lake Michigan & lots of wild flowers. Upon reaching Cross Village, participants will be able to choose to have lunch there, or drive on their own, back through Petoskey & Charlevoix, stopping for lunch, or go back via county roads. There are numerous orchard farm markets for shopping for cherry treats, etc. south of Charlevoix, along US-31.

**FRIDAY, MAY 19:** Our final trip is a drive back to Traverse City and visit the Village at Grand Traverse Commons. The village is one of the largest historical rehabilitation sites in the country. Formerly the Traverse City State Hospital, the 18<sup>th</sup> century Victorian-Italianate buildings are now an eclectic neighborhood of unique shops, delicious foods, local wine tastings & more. Located in a beautiful park setting of mature trees & diverse public trails just minutes from downtown Traverse City. No formal tours or lunch. You will be on your own upon arrival at the Grand Traverse Commons.

That evening will be the banquet & farewell at our host hotel/resort.

### **TOUR PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATION (A REQUIREMENT OF THE BDE)**

I certify that the Buick I will drive on this tour is covered by at least the minimum bodily injury & property liability insurance required by the state or province in which the vehicle is registered.

My insurance company is \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # is \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

I agree not to hold the Buick Driving Enthusiasts, any of its officers, chairpersons or members responsible for any lost or stolen property, bodily injury or property damage. All participating vehicles are to be properly insured and licensed.

I understand that if for any reason my Buick is unable to be driven on this tour I will ride in another Buick, I also understand that the tour hosts and/or another BDE member will help me secure a ride for myself and my passengers, if needed. I acknowledge the mandatory requirement of the BDE to have a working CB & fully charged fire extinguisher in my tour Buick.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**COPY BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS, MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS" & SEND TO:** John Daily  
1043 Bluebell Lane  
Davison, Michigan 48423  
**QUESTIONS?** John Daily 810-658-0126  
e-mail: esydr7@aol.com

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR REGISTRATION IS 4-13-2017**



**MUSIC CITY MEMORIES**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AREA**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Courtney & Elaine Shenkle 443 262-8709 /Ellen & John Cavanaugh 941 966-8271

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

BCA# \_\_\_\_\_ BDE# \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Buick Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ First BDE Tour yes no Trailer Parking yes

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**ALL SUITE HOTEL WITH FULL HOT BREAKFAST - \$94.95 PER NIGHT + TAX**

**HOTEL INFORMATION WILL BE SENT WHEN REGISTRATION IS RECEIVED**

**REGISTRATION LIMITED TO FIRST 50 BUICKS**

Registration Fee (member and spouse) \$30.00 (includes dash plaque/hospitality) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (member only) \$20.00 (includes dash plaque/hospitality) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional guests @ \$10.00 each (hospitality room only) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

**MONDAY September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Belle Meade Plantation - tour and sit down lunch \_\_\_\_\_ X \$39.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Factory \_\_\_\_\_ Free

**TUESDAY September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - BUS TOUR to downtown Nashville**

Guided Tour Ryman Theater and Self-Guided Tour Country Music Hall of Fame

Lunch at Jack's Bar-B-Que \_\_\_\_\_ X \$140.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Lane Motor Museum box lunch included

**Select 1** turkey \_\_\_\_\_ roast beef \_\_\_\_\_ ham \_\_\_\_\_ X \$26.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Jackson's The Hermitage \_\_\_\_\_ X \$16.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**THURSDAY September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Oakland's Historic Mansion and box lunch

**Select 1** turkey \_\_\_\_\_ roast beef \_\_\_\_\_ ham \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cannonsburgh Village FREE

Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*TOTAL REGISTRATION \*\*\*\*\***

A couple doing all is \$592.00

A single doing all is \$321.00 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL CARS IN CARAVAN MUST BE BUICKS**

**A CB RADIO AND A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ARE MANDATORY TO TOUR WITH THE BDE**

**TOUR PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATION BDE REQUIREMENT!**

I CERTIFY THAT THE BUICK I WILL USE ON THIS TOUR IS COVERED BY AT LEAST THE MINIMUM BODILY AND PROPERTY LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED BY THE STATE OR PROVINCE IN WHICH IT IS REGISTERED.

MY INSURANCE COMPANY IS \_\_\_\_\_ POLICY # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP \_\_\_\_\_

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IF FOR ANY REASON MY BUICK IS UNABLE TO BE DRIVEN ON THIS TOUR, I WILL RIDE IN ANOTHER BUICK. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE TOUR HOST WILL HELP ME SECURE A RIDE FOR MYSELF AND MY PASSENGERS, IF NECESSARY.

I AGREE NOT TO HOLD THE BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS, AND ANY OF ITS OFFICERS, CHAIRPERSONS, AND MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY, BODILY INJURY, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE. ALL PARTICIPATING VEHICLES MUST BE PROPERLY INSURED AND LICENSED.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS" AND MAIL TO  
ELLEN CAVANAUGH

8400 Vamo Road, Apt. 1260, SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34231

941 966-8271 (HOME) 941 350-4347 (CELL)

[CAVANAUGH7@COMCAST.NET](mailto:CAVANAUGH7@COMCAST.NET)

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> 2017

REFUNDS, FOR ANY REASON, FOR ANY EVENT, WILL DEPEND ON THE DATE OF CANCELLATION

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU REQUIRE

HANDICAPPED PARKING \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIAL DIET \_\_\_\_\_

CELEBRATING A SPECIAL EVENT DURING TOUR \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE A COPY OF THIS REGISTRATION FOR YOUR RECORDS





**BUICK  
DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS**

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS

A DIVISION OF THE BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

The BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS (BDE) is a division of the Buick Club of America (BCA). The BDE believes in:

1. The promotion and driving of all models of Buicks produced by the Buick Motor Division.
2. Encouraging the maintenance, preservation, and restoration of all models of Buicks produced by the Buick Motor Division.
3. Providing the exchange of technical, historical, and other information about Buick automobiles for all members and other interested parties.

If you are in agreement with these beliefs, you are invited to join the BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS. In order to be a member of the BDE, YOU MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA. If you are not a member, please indicate so, and we will provide you with an application to join. Thank you.

- ☐ NEW
- ☐
- ☐ RENEWAL: BDE# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐
- ☐ I AM NOT A BCA MEMBER. PLEASE SEND A BCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

DATE SUBMITTED \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ B.C.A. # \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.A. EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/PROV/COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ +4 \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BUICKS OWNED (Year, Model- Example: 1953 Roadmaster Convertible, Model 76C). List additional Buicks on back

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DUES FOR THE BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS ARE **\$15** PER CALENDAR YEAR FOR RESIDENTS OF NORTH AMERICA; DUES ARE **\$25** PER YEAR FOR RESIDENTS OUTSIDE OF NORTH AMERICA.

**MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE USA MUST PAY WITH A MONEY ORDER IN USA FUNDS**

MEMBERSHIPS MAY NOT BE RENEWED BEYOND A 2 YEAR LIMIT

ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE EXEMPT FROM PAYING DUES

Please make checks payable to:

**BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS**

Return to:

Isabel Lenny  
1008 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.  
Allentown, PA 18103-5440  
Phone: 610-434-2430

FOR CLUB USE ONLY  
CK# \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_ ' \_\_\_ ' \_\_\_

**WELCOME TO THE BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**