



Amanda and Keith's 1970 GS 455

Amanda purchased her 70 GS 455 in the summer of 1990. At that time \$6,200 would buy you a nice clean green on green, 100,000 mile big block GS. After being a summer daily driver for 4 years we decided it was time to fix it up some - the motor was tired and the paint was starting to show its age. After watching the Stock Appearing racing at the GS Nats, I wanted to play with those guys but still have Amanda drive it daily in the summer months on pump gas.

In the winter of 94 we pulled the drive train out and sent the shell to Amanda's fathers body shop. Originally from Colorado, it was rust free except for the lower fenders and right quarter pane. A NOS quarter and small patches in the fenders took care of most of the body work. After finding a great deal on a complete black bucket seat interior, the decision was made to change the color to black. We also added power windows, tilt wheel, floor shift and console and a tach and gauges.

For the motor, we sent the heads and manifolds to Gessler's Head Porting and the short block went to Fred Catlin. Greg did his "Street Port" on the heads and his standard porting on the intake and exhaust manifolds. Fred started the short block out with reworking the stock crank and rods, .020 over 10 to 1 JE Pistons, KB 118 cam and some other tricks he had learned over the years. On the engine dyno in the summer 95 it made a best of 435hp @ 5000rpm and 501 ft torque @ 4000 rpm; it never made less than 450 ft torque from 3000 to 5000 rpm.

The GS Nats in 96 was the first time out, ran 13.30s with a non-working switch pitch converter and a weird inconsistent fuel problem. With a ATI converter, fresh tranny and lots of testing and tuning it ran a best the first year of 12.52 @ 106 on slicks. 1997 brought a runner up in the car show and a win in the pro bracket at the 1st Buicks at Bristol.

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Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the GS Club of America, the Chicagoland Chapter of the GSCA, or any of the officers of these automotive enthusiast clubs.

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Membership Policy & Dues

The Chicagoland Chapter of the Buick GSCA is open to all Buick enthusiasts and owners of Buick powered cars. Membership is \$20 per year, and includes a quarterly newsletter and much more. Apply online at the chapter web site or send dues with check made out to **CCGSCA** with membership form to:

Shari Bonecutter – Membership Chairman
Chicagoland Chapter GSCA
4010 Raymond Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513-1846

Chapter Web Page

<http://www.chicagolandbuick.org>

Member's Change of Address

Chicagoland members who move are requested to notify our membership chairman before the next newsletter mailing. We do not want you to miss a single edition of your newsletter. Please notify us of e-mail address changes as soon as you change providers.

Membership Renewal

Please check the label on your newsletter. If your membership is up in June, this will be your second to last newsletter. Obtain an application from the website or past issue, and mail to 4010 Raymond Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513, along with a check for \$20 made out to "CCGSCA." Please don't let your membership lapse!

Volunteers for the Chapter

Contact Bob Nunes if you are interested in helping our Chapter continue our pursuit of Buick Motorsport activities for our members. It is very important to have fresh ideas introduced into the operation of the Club. Plus we need help to distribute the work so no volunteers get burned out. The tasks are easy generally fun and you will always have plenty of help.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 1 Hangover Nationals at Byron (weather permitting)
- Jan 13 Christmas Party – Park Place of Countryside
- Jan 20 & 21 - Drag Race Expo at Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center - Schaumburg
- Jan 26, 27 & 28 – World of Wheels
- Feb 11 Technical Session at Casper Electronics
- Mar 11 Chilli Cookoff at the Moose Lodge
- April 11 Spring Dyno Session at ATR
- May 15 thru 19, 2007 GS Nationals at BG
- June 1 thru 3, 2007 Buick Race Day at Norwalk
- June 9 Car Show at Hondo's Bar and Grille
- July 4, 2007 – Car Show in Woodridge, IL
- Aug 3, 4 & 5 – BPG HorsePower Nats at Columbus, OH
- Aug 23, 24 & 25 BCA Heartland Regionals in Wisconsin

Cover car Continued - In 1998 at the GS Nats we had a 1st place in the show, a runner up in GS Street Stock and its best run ever run, 12.25 @108. In 2003 we put factory reproduction G60/15 tires on it and ran a few FAST (Factory Appearing Stock Tire) races, running a best of 12.60 @ 106 with a 1.76 60ft on bias ply tires.

This past year Amanda took her first pass down the track at the Buick Horsepower Nats race on Wed and on race day managed to go a few rounds in the bracket program. In late August on the last ladies night at Great Lakes Dragaway, she went 3 rounds to win the race and get her first trophy. Her best

time this year was 12.43 @ 108, in drive letting it shift itself @ 4500 RPM.

This winter we're going to pull the motor and have Wagon Rick (Precision Engine & Machine) freshen the motor. After 11 years of trouble free racing and 30,000 street miles we figure it deserves it and Rick thinks there maybe be some more in it.

Best performances to date:

12.25 @ 108, 1.68 60 ft at 4135 lbs race weight on 26 x 8 Slicks

12.60 @ 106, 1.76 60 ft at 4200 lbs race weight on G60 x15 Bias Plys

If your address label indicates December 2006, it is time to renew

Director's Garage – Loyd Bonecutter

Wow another December issue of the Fast Times. Our Chapter is at the end of the 11th year and what a year it was. There were a lot of Buick events to choose and we saw many of you enjoying the fruits of many dedicated Buick performance enthusiasts. The mid May event this year was the GS Nationals, which was down in attendance this year, but the previous 25th anniversary GS Nationals was a banner year making any comparison very tough. In our humble opinion this is the event to attend since so many of our friends go there every year.

Roberta and Bill's Buick Race Day held in Norwalk, OH in early June was a joy to behold. Although it was the first time Shari and I attended this event, those folks made us feel very welcome. We will become regulars at this well run event and are looking forward to attending the 2007 version. We loved the pound of ice cream for \$1.00, the car show at Arbys with the hotel we were staying at just across the parking lot. It has been said this is like the GS Nationals when it was a smaller event. This event is a short drive from Chicago into north Central Ohio in interstate 80-90..

At the end of June was the HorsePower Nationals at Indianapolis Raceway Park. This inaugural event was well run with attendance nearly doubling every day for the four days at the track. One downside was the distance we had to travel each day to find reasonably priced hotel rooms, due to another popular racing event being held the same weekend nearby. Fortunately John Chamberlin joined forces with John Schmidt with the BPG to combine the BPG Nationals with the HP Nats for August 3, 4 & 5 in 2007.

The second week of August was the third annual BPG Nationals. Quaker City Dragway in Salem, OH. is an interesting track on top of a hill, with an uphill burn out box. The first 1/8 seems to go downhill and the final 1/8 is uphill. Makes for great 1/8 mile times and speed. Youngstown is quite a drive from Chicago with a great deal of the fun from traveling in the caravan to and from the event. The track was rumored for sale therefore speculation on the future of the event was plentiful. We really enjoyed the cruise night at the A&W in Boardman, which was overflowing with Buicks under the serving canopy. With this event combining with the HP Nats this will add room for another regional event.

Our Midwest Buick Challenge was problematical. The track after the Street Chaos was not ready for us and things ran slow all day. A short rain storm interrupted the afternoon and it took awhile for things to dry up. After TSM got their runs in the track decided to stop running, to prepare the track for the evening run. The following morning it was raining so the track called off the event, although it cleared up and was a beautiful day. Needless to say we are looking at alternative tracks for our 10th annual event.

With Joe Garcia and Paul Dubois at the helm of our racing season we should be in for a treat. I hear great things planned to kick our racing program up a notch. Hang on as there will be a lot of things to do in the upcoming year with your Buick.

Like Joe and Paul we need members to come forward to help plan or run events. The health of the Chapter depends on you. Happy Holidays

Minutes of the November 12th meeting -
Reference the 2007 CCGSCA Drag Racing Series:

At the beginning of the meeting votes were counted. Joe Garcia and Paul DuBois have been campaigning for several weeks for the position of Race Coordinator for the 2007 CCGSCA Drag Race series. In a surprising development, after all votes were counted there was a tie for this position. So after a lengthy discussion it was determined that both Joe and Paul will be the Race Coordinators for the 2007 season. We are hoping for a successful race season that will be fun socially with some exciting competition.

Those in attendance agreed to have five races scheduled for the 2007 season. The issue of where to race next year was discussed in depth and it was agreed that most of our races will continue to be held at Byron Dragway. We will also try to schedule one race at Great Lakes Dragway, and one race at Route 66. If we are unable to schedule the race at Route 66 an alternate location will be selected. It doesn't look like US 41 will be in our future at least for the 2007 season. Loyd will be looking into possibly holding the Midwest Buick Challenge at the Osceola Dragway near South Bend, Indiana. If this works out Osceola will be an excellent location, it's centrally located, and there is an abundance of hotels in the area.

For the 2007 season, we will most likely go to two brackets from the current three. We will probably use 12.50 ET as the cutoff between the two brackets. Bracket 1 would be 12.50 and faster, bracket 2 would be 12.51 and slower. The official cutoff will be determined at the first race in order to get an equal number of cars in each bracket and that ET cutoff will remain consistent for the rest of the year.

By popular demand we are going to bring back the "Money Payout" for our bracket racers. As it looks right now \$10 extra will be charged each car

entering the bracket race competition. The money will be pooled separately for each bracket. Tentative payouts will be first place 50%, second place 35%, and third place 15% of the total purse for each bracket.. We think this will add a little competitive excitement to the races. Nobody will get rich from winning but it should be fun. We are also looking into having a sponsor for each race to kick in a little something for the winner of each bracket. CCGSCA members Al and Debby Martinez from "Exclusively Buick" embroidery, and Loyd Bonecutter on behalf of CCGSCA have graciously offered a Buick embroidered jacket to each winner of the 2007 CCGSCA Drag Race series for bracket one and bracket two. This alone has got my adrenaline going. As sponsors get added we will update this on the CCGSCA internet message board.

There are several other topics that have to yet be finalized. This includes but not limited to rules, points structure, Saturday racing, special cookout race days, qualifying, a ladder type structure for racing, as well as a ladies only racing event. I wonder if I can talk my wife into the ladies only race? I'll have to talk this over with my GN first.....

We will keep everyone informed throughout the year on the Chicagoland internet board. This will include points updates and information about the races.

There is going to be a meeting for racers only who will participate in this year's race to finalize the rest of our plans on December 2 at 2:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Paul DuBois at Tweaked6@aol.com or call 815-895-8582. We have a very limited space and that is why we ask that you please call first. We hope to finalize everything and have the program rolled out at one of the future meetings. Hope to see you all out at the track this year!!!!

Joe Garcia & Paul DuBois – Race Chairmen

Elections for the 2007 officers are coming up. Please contact Bob Nunes with your nominations or volunteer at the Christmas Party. Elections will be held at the February Meeting at Casper's Electronics.

Classifieds:
Front – 1 set of coil springs – new - \$80 Firm
Rear – 1 set of coil springs – new - \$80 Firm
1 new rebuilt carb - \$250. for 118 113 cam
1 used Quad Jet - \$60

8 new Stage 1 valves - \$80
Stage 1 exhaust valves \$10 each
Pair 1970 455 heads - \$175 Firm
Please call Johnny – 815-282-8217

Membership News - Happy Holidays, everyone!

We got another Midwest Challenge under our belts, the 9th one. Well, maybe half of one. Mother

Nature and the track cancelled the Sunday events, and we had a rainy spell on Saturday, as well. We did get some test and tune in, as well as the car show and the TSM races. We were going to have

a ladies gambler's race this year on Sunday, but that didn't happen. We tried to add a few things to the car show, and will hopefully be able to do this next year as well. The two clubs chip in and give a \$50 cash award to the participant's choice, and we had small goody bags this year. Thanks to Frank for providing the actual bags, some of the stuff, and his Sauce King barbecue sauce and pens. Beth also contributed Mardi Gras beads, shot glasses, and tattoos. Thanks to Beth, Barb, Carol, and Tim for helping stuff the bags. Big thanks to the Indiana chapter for running the show – particularly Robin, Jamie, and Lisa. Thanks to Tom for the ballots, ballot box and show cards. It could not have happened without you guys.

I have my crew to thank, also. Beth and Dana, Barb and Mark, Wayne, Tim, Scott, Frank, Paul, Bob, Bobby, Carol – all you guys helped a lot. Carrying, setting up, selling tee shirts, moving cars – you guys are the bestest!. (and Wayne's backrubs are awesome!!) Big thanks also to Bernie for putting this on again. Next year is the 10th year for this, so we can hopefully stay tuned for a different kind of event!

October brought the B-O-P race in Cordova. We had a small turnout but more than before. I think this is slowly catching on with folks. You should try it sometime – nice track, nice drive at a super time of year. I love going there. And congrats to Keith Egan, who won his class!

Next was our Dyno Day at ATR in Joliet. We had a decent turn out, and the day turned out to be bright and cold. The cars loved it! Unfortunately, I left our poster board out there and don't have the final numbers, but I do know that Dennis Butt and his Butang produced over 1,000 horsepower with his turbo engine! (and he didn't break the dyno!) 'Way to go! We probably had about 30+ members, who devoured the pizza and the soda that the club brought. Thanks to those that showed up.

Then we had our Fresh Air Finale, at Byron, the second to last weekend in October. This was a fun day, but cold! The good part of the cold weather is that a lot of other folks stayed home from the track; unfortunately so did a lot of our own folks. So our guys got a lot of passes in.

The November meeting was at the Moose Lodge in River Grove. This was a planning session for next year, along with a presentation by Debbie and Al Martinez of their cool Buick jackets. Wait until you all see these in person – they are awesome!!

We've been working on a schedule for the winter months – I hope you decide to participate and enjoy it!

Member news

Our condolences got to Steve Pitts on the passing of his mother. She passed the Saturday of the Midwest Challenge, possibly when Steve was hurling down the drag strip and blew a tire. We figure she was looking out for him, as nothing happened to him. But we were all sorry to hear the news, when he was back in the pits.

Then, on October 13, Chris Gatch's father, Mark, passed suddenly. Mark was a member of our club, too. You could count on seeing him at most meetings and car shows. He lent a helping hand at both the GSCA car show and the display at the World of Wheels. I for one appreciated his quiet friendship, and will miss seeing him at events. Chris and his family, along with Steve and his family, have our deepest sympathy and good thoughts.

We have another baby to welcome – Carter William Grupp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Grupp, made his entrance on October 11, 2006. From the pictures we've seen, Carter is doing well.

We've seen Brett Gatch at a few events and he's a real cutie, too. I've not figured out who's lungs he has yet.

Stay tuned for more announcements in March....

Welcome Back to Russ Ciesiolka, of South Bend, IN. Russ has the best of both worlds, with a 70 GS 455 and an 86 GN. Jason Bonham, of Prairie View, IL is new to the club, with a 67 Special Deluxe. Jamie Kain from Rockford, IL has an 87 Blue T-Type. Bob Hoffman of Sandwich, IL has an 87 GN, while Tom Valone of Essex, IL has an 86 GN. Welcome to all you new folks!

January starts a new year for us, and a lot of you all have to renew. Please take the time to fill out the application and update any information – car info, email address, etc. I would really appreciate it!

And the two events I have to push are the Holiday party on January 13, 2007 and the Chili Cook-off on March 11. Please show your support for the club and come to these – they are amongst our more fun events!

Hope you and yours have a safe and happy holiday season! Shari Bonecutter

