

# FAST TIMES

## CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER BUICK GSCA

Volume 15 Issue 2 Summer 2009 Chapter of the **Gran Sport Club of America**; 625 Pine Point Circle; Valdosta, GA 31602 912-244-0577



Brad Burger's 1971 GS Convertible

Way back in 1988 before a certain presidential candidate invented the Internet, my wife Debbie and I took a trip to Orlando and rented a Chevy Cavalier convertible. The car was nothing but trouble, but I loved the top down, wind in my hair feeling and decided I needed a convertible when I got back home to Springfield, IL. I've had convertibles before. My first car was a '67 Valiant convertible with 273 cu in, 4 bbl, 4-speed. Very nice car though it didn't set any speed records. That never stopped me and my friends from heading out to Thompson Drag Raceway in Madison, OH and running whatever we could bring (or borrow not always with permission). My second convertible was a Fiat 124. Great looking car inside and out and a blast when it ran, but it truly spent more time broken than running. There were some non-convertibles in between like a '71 Duster 340, '75 Saab 99 EMS and

my dad's '69 Charger 383-4 and my cousin's AAR Cuda that I recommend he buy and let me take to Thompson. I even convinced my mother she needed a 440 in her Plymouth Fury for adequate passing power (of course she did). So now I'm back home and started looking for a convertible beginning of '89. There was nothing in particular I was searching for, but then there was a GTO in the paper. The owner informed me that it was sold, but had a friend who had a GS convertible for sale in Oakford, IL (NW of Spfld.). I drove out and took a look and instantly liked what I saw. He had replaced the fenders and quarters with NOS and repainted the car. We went for a test drive, did some negotiating and I bought my GS April 12, 1989.

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**Please volunteer to become a Chapter Officer we need your help.**

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.

### Chapter Volunteers

Director	Loyd Bonecutter	708-485-8477 loydb@chicagolandbuick.org
Co-Director / Gran Sport	Steve Russo	815-795-4737 STEVEGS1@aol.com
Co-Director / Turbo Regal	Mark Holda	630-747-7652 M.Holda@comcast.net
Activities	Paul Brelie	224-484-8057 ELATED3@aol.com
Race Chairman	Joe Garcia	jrg3517@comcast.net
Treasurer	Bill Grupp	jackbot@yahoo.com
Secretary	Barb Holda	708-243-7280 Metaz_56@comcast.net
Membership	Shari Bonecutter	708-485-8477 sharib@chicagolandbuick.org
Graphic Artist	Paul Vilser	paulvilser@sbcglobal.net
Publisher	Beth Andrews	draena710@comcast.net
Advertising	Loyd Bonecutter	708-485-8477 loydb@chicagolandbuick.org
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Show	Beth Andrews	847-845-7342 draena710@comcast.net
Midwest Challenge	Frank Jackowiak	630-430-2487 frank@itpphoto.com
Cruise Chairman	Loyd Bonecutter	708-485-8477 loydb@chicagolandbuick.org
Volunteers	Chris Gatch	708-576-8931 cgatch@comcast.net
	Bob Nunes	847-455-7796
	Rich George	630-551-3120
	Jason Stasiak	815-442-3263
	Wayne Smith	708-354-0130

### 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 January, June will be your 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 providing Buick Motorsport activities for our members. Fresh ideas are vital to keep the Club exciting. By distributing the work among more volunteers make it more enjoyable for all. The tasks are easy, generally fun, plus you will always have plenty of help.

### Upcoming Events

- Jun 7 – BOP races at Great Lakes Dragway
- Jun 13 – In the Drink Cruise – Lake Como, WI
- Jun 14 – Marquardt BOPC Car Show – Barrington, IL
- Jun 20 – CCGSCA Race 2 @ Great Lakes Dragway
- Jun 20 Oak Forrest Car Show 159<sup>th</sup> at Harlem
- Jun 21 Fathers Day Car Show Lyons, IL
- Jun 27 – BCA Car Show – Design Pointe in Naperville
- Jun 18 – Buick Appraisals @ Cars Inc – Glenview, IL
- Jul 18 – Midwest Buick Meet @ Byron Dragway
- Jul 19 - Race 3 @ Byron Dragway
- Jul 31 to Aug 2 –BPG Horsepower Nationals – Hebron, OH
- Aug 8 & 9 – UB Draw at Byron Dragway
- Aug 13-15 – BCA Heartland Regional – Appleton, WI
- Aug 22 - Race 4 @ Great Lakes Dragway
- Aug 22 - Midwest Buick Picnic @ Madison, WI
- Sept 11-13 – BOP races at Byron Dragway
- Sept 25 to 27 Midwest Buick Challenge – Osceola, IN

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I'm the 4th owner best I can figure and it was originally delivered to a dealer in Galesburg, IL. After getting it home and taking it to my local mechanic I found out why it's a good idea to take the mechanic with you before buying a car. There was a hole in the floor under the driver and in the trunk and the paint job was pathetic in the sunlight. Still, it ran good and was fun in the sun. Plans were made to start making things right and I started buying parts.



The first things tackled were the floorboard and trunk, getting sport mirrors (off of a junkyard Nova), sport steering wheel, and replacing the core support. After this, things get a bit blurry. The car was painted in 1994 by Kim's Auto Body in Spfld. where they also installed power windows, door locks, and trunk release. A new interior was purchased from Duane Heckman and installed. The motor was rebuilt by a gal in Spfld. who knew how to build a Chevy, but not a Buick and it was never right. I had to keep adding so much oil that I

never had to change it. A 4-core radiator was installed that keeps it running nice and cool even with the A/C on in city driving. Radial tires replaced polyglass.

After Motorola transferred me to Chicagoland approximately 13 years ago I've had the motor rebuilt again (no using oil now), engine compartment detailed, power disk brakes installed in place of manual drums, correct numbered carburetor, tilt steering column, N25 bumper, instrument panel re-chromed, new top, new grill, and stereo w/CD changer and MP3 input. The A/C is still working well on R12. The lower front corners of both doors were repaired.

Yes, it's been an expense (I've never added up the bills nor will I), but it has been a source of great enjoyment all these years for me and my family. My 2 daughters Jessica and Abby were raised in it and my wife will never let me sell it. I've driven it to Bowling Green at least 14 times (its never been trailered) and its only had a major problem going down to BG once when the heater control valve blew and left my antifreeze all over I55 at 5 AM on a cold, dark, rainy morning with semi's driving by at 90 (ah the memories). The Buhog as it is affectionately called by those that know her, has traveled to Cleveland for a wedding, Columbus to the Nats, up to Wisconsin multiple times and Flint twice. It has cruising gears in it and flying along at 80 MPH all day is no problem. The couple of times I've been stopped by law enforcement they mainly wanted to check out the ride and told me to slow er down.

Plans for 2009 are to head down to Bowling Green and up to Appleton, WI for the BCA Regional. Of course plenty of local shows and cruises will be attended. I only wish the wind was still blowing in my hair (and the top not being down isn't the problem)

Please take a look at the address label on this newsletter. It lets you know which month your membership expires

Director's Garage  
Lloyd Bonecutter  
Glad to see the warmer weather finally arrive. Certainly seemed like a chilly April, so did not get out for the garage for long periods of time required for a major project. That caused quite a thrash on the cars in the two weeks before the GS Nationals. I know this happens almost every year, although I intend to not allow this to happen. This time the project was close to running, but in reality nowhere near being finished, as the tweaking continues nearly a month later. All the

cars are running at this point, which is a very good thing.

Was great seeing everybody at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual GS Nationals. Not having a full Tuesday, at the track, made the week even shorter, and turned out to be one of the best days of the week. I was surprised at the number of members that came in spite of the threatening weather, as well as the number of folks who did not bring their Buick down because of the weather channel predictions.



The longest stretch of nice weather was Friday morning so the car show went off without a hitch. Unfortunately that was the extent of the good weather that day. There was a little racing in the afternoon, with the highlight being Odell Cantrell's crash. Since Odell had purchased that car new it had to be devastating. I understand he has found a rolling chassis and is putting together another car for future racing. At 69 he is definitely my hero, and at 58 want to be like him in 11 years, without the flipping upside part.

Saturday was even worse with the bad weather hanging in there. There was so much rain water was coming up the cracks in the pavement in the shut down area for the early part of the afternoon after the drizzle finally stopped. Racing was called and test and tuning finally happened. To me the highlight was watching John Stevens pull off back to back 10:60s after just pulling the car out of storage for most of last year. He was warming up for Pinks as Indianapolis.

In putting the calendar of events together, we are just getting into the busy season. This should be an exciting year with all the things planned out for the year. There should be something for everybody to participate with their Buick including drag racing, cruises and car shows.

Thanks to Joe Garcia we have another great season of racing planned. The Samantha Rix Memorial Race was postponed due to rain. We will dedicate another one of our regular races to Sam when we have a chance to get together on this. The following are the remaining races:

**June 20th**, Saturday CCGSCA Race #2 - Great Lakes

**July 19th**, Sunday CCGSCA Race #3 - Byron

**Aug 22nd**, Saturday CCGSCA Race #4 - Great Lakes

**Aug 30th**, Sunday CCGSCA Race #5 - Byron

**Oct 18th**, Sunday CCGSCA Race #6 - Great Lakes

Joe arranged a lot of dates for racing as our participation continues to increase. This may be due to including Great Lakes Dragway in the program, and the great cookouts that our racing food director provides. With the number of races, there may not be a need for rain dates, although we have not started out great with a rainout right away.

If you have time or see Joe at one of the event, please thank him for putting together a great racing program.

Chris Gatch put together a great cruise and show schedule so please make sure you get out for one near you. I fully understand taking your prize Buick out in

rush hour traffic, to attend a far away cruise is not fun. We have tried to include some events in different areas, to keep that to a minimum. Again this is normally a thankless job, so please let him know how much you appreciate planning this schedule.

As many of you know the importance of having an appraisal and an agreed amount clause on your Buick's insurance policy is vitally important. Otherwise if your car is involved in an accident, you may not come out very happy with the settlement. Therefore Mike Grippo is coming to Cars, Inc. in Glen Ellen, IL on July 18 to help us out. Please see the bulletin board and sign up for a slot if you are interested. We are assuming half hour increments, that vary with the amount of modifications to the car and if there was a previous appraisal to work from. If this is your first appraisal for a modified car a list of the equipment installed by manufacture name is vitally important. Anybody who has seen Mike's appraisals is amazed at the attention to detail. There will not be any second guessing of the value.

On the same day as Mike's appraisal services a group of area Buick owners from turbobuick.com are having their Midwest Buick Meet at Byron Dragway. This is a great group of guys who are going to hang out with many racing as BJ has set up lanes for the Buicks that day. Hopefully some will stay the evening and join our racing event the following day at Byron. Any and all Buicks are invited to join in this fun group of guys

That same group of guys has organized a picnic at Lake Farm Park (Shelter #3) in Madison, Wisconsin for August 22, 2009. Please see our bulletin board or turbobuick.com for complete information and directions. Cost will be \$12 per anybody eating. If you do not eat a donation toward the shelter reservation cost is appreciated. Bring your own beverages.

Shari is a little under the weather so will not be issuing great tidbits of information on our members for this issue. This is certainly an important element in our Chapter so hope to see her article in the next issue.

Chris and Shari both mentioned that I should add our regrets for not having a 4<sup>th</sup> of July car show this year. By the time we understood this was not happening, it was too late to put together alternate plans.

Hope to see you all enjoying your performance Buick at an event this summer.

**CCGSCA Cruise/Car Show Schedule 2009 with races added****May 9****BCA Spring Dustoff**

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 3pm  
Crossroads Chevrolet / Buick  
330 East Roosevelt Road West Chicago

**June 6****Buick & Oldsmobile Cruise Night Downtown Mt. Prospect**

Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 6pm to 9pm  
@ Metra Parking Lot on the corner of Rt. 83 & N.W. Highway

**June 10<sup>th</sup>****Braconi's Pizza BOP Cruise Night**

Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, Time 5pm-9pm  
@ Cross Creek Shopping Center  
796 Royal St George, Naperville  
Off Ogden Ave. between Mill St. & River Road

**June 11****CCGSCA Cruise Night #1**

Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 9pm  
Burlington Avenue, Downtown Riverside IL.  
Approximately 3 Blocks west of Harlem Ave.

**June 13****Club Picnic**

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>  
In The Drink Bar & Grill - 11am til?  
This is a great event that we have done the past few years with the BCA  
W3860 Lake Shore Drive Lake Como, Wisconsin 53147  
They will be serving dinner to purchase @ 4pm

**June 14****Marquardt Buick**

Free show hosted by the Pontiac Club  
Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 3pm  
1421 South Barrington Road, Barrington, IL 60010  
\$5.00 entry fee

**June 18****Buick Cruise Night Downtown Frankfort**

Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm to 9:00pm  
Downtown Frankfort, IL

**June 20**

Saturday CCGSCA Race #2 - Great Lakes

**June 21****Lyons Fathers Day Car Show (Tennative)**

Sunday June 21st, 8am to 3:30pm  
 Ogden Avenue & Joliet Road, Lyons, IL  
 Registration fee required

**June 25****CCGSCA Cruise Night #2**

Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 9pm  
 @ Wendy's on the corner of 79<sup>th</sup> St. & Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview

**July 4**

**Please note there is no car show this year. Maybe next year**

**July 7****Augustino's Rock-N-Roll Deli BOP Cruise Night**

Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>, Time 5pm-9pm  
 300 West North Avenue  
 Route 59 @ Route 64, West Chicago, IL 60185

**July 11****Drive-In Movie Night**

Cascade Outdoor Theater  
 Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>

We will plan to meet at Augustino's Deli on the corner of Rt. 59 & Rt.64  
 @ 6:00pm have something to eat and then drive in together around 7ish

**July 19****Sunday CCGSCA Race #3 - Byron****July 14****CCGSCA Cruise Night #3**

Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 9pm  
 @ Toyota Park 7100 South Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview

**July 24****CCGSCA Event @ Franklin Park Car Show**

Friday July 24<sup>th</sup>, 6pm to 9pm  
 Downtown Franklin Park  
 Registration Fee Required

\*Please let us know if you plan to attend because will have saved spots for all of the Buicks!

**July 26****Arthritis Foundation 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show**

Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am-3pm  
 1000 Burr Ridge Parkway, Burr Ridge, IL  
 \$15.00 Donation Required

**July 31****BPG Buick Horsepower Nationals**July 31<sup>st</sup> thru August 2<sup>nd</sup>

National Trail Raceway

Hebron, Ohio

**August 13****BCA Heartland Regional Show**August 13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>

Appleton, WI

**August 17****Rookies Buick Cruise Night**Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>, Time 5pm-9pm

2 Blocks East of Randall Road on West Main (Rt. 64), St. Charles, IL 60174

**August 18****CCGSCA Cruise Night #4**Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 9pm

Downtown Berwyn Cruise Night

**August 20****Augustino's Rock-N-Roll Deli BOP Cruise Night**Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>, Time 5pm-9pm

Schmale &amp; St. Charles Road

Carol Stream, IL

**August 22****Saturday CCGSCA Race #4 - Great Lakes****August 30****Sunday CCGSCA Race #5 - Byron****September 25****Buick Midwest Challenge**September 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

Osceola Dragway

Car show Saturday 9am - 2pm

Osceola, IN

\$5.00 plus gate entry

**October 4****Marquardt Buick**

Free show hosted by the BCA

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 8am to 3pm

1421 South Barrington Road, Barrington, IL 60010

**October 18****Sunday CCGSCA Race #6 - Great Lakes**

## Cruise News

-Chris Gatch

Hello Cruisers!

I would like to welcome you to the start of a new cruise season! I am sure that mostly everyone has hit the streets, and got those cars out and ready for the summer cruise events. I can hopefully make some changes in the cruise schedule to make it more accommodating for everyone. I already know that we have some big changes in the racing program again so this should be an interesting and fun season. I hope to see everyone out there this year!

As the start of the summer cruise/show schedule is here, I would like to tell you about just a few of the shows that we are going to try and attend as a club this spring. Our first show was the Spring Dust-Off at Crossroads Buick in West Chicago on May 9th. Hosted by the Chicagoland BCA who always invites us to premiere local Buick show which are always a good time and are free. Up next will be the Nat's in Bowling Green from the 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all who helped with judging again on Friday that was the nicest stretch of weather all week! The main cruise schedule is above my article in this newsletter. The final Summer Cruise/Car Show Calendar will be also on the web site so if you have any suggestions please let me know. I am always looking for new car show and cruise spots for the club to attend!

With some sad news I would like to let everyone know that there will be no Gorilla Days car show this year. Due to a departmental job change The Sauce King will not be able to host the event this year. We tried to

figure something out to get a show together but on this short of notice it will be pretty hard. We do have some ideas for a show next year so please stay tuned. We will be back next year at a new location bigger and better then ever!

Here is the part that I would like to ask everyone once again ask for any information on cruise locations or car shows that you know about and would like us to attend as a group this year. Besides some of the old cruise spots I have added a few new spots that I am sure will be a hit with the cruisers this year. I would like to do something together as a club at one of the north side cruise events. If some of the members in a particular area would like to get together let us know so that we can plan something as a club event. Being from the south side I know a lot of the hot cruise spots here but I am unfamiliar with many on the north side or western suburbs. Having notice the earlier the better because it's really hard to get the word out and organize something a week or two before an event is going to happen. So please remember - any information is helpful.

I would like to wish everyone a prosperous and safe upcoming year. The season is here so get those cars running, shine them up and prepare to bring them out this year for what promises to be a great one! Hope to see everyone "cruzin" this year and remember to *Keep Going Fast With Class!*

### Join us at the Cascade Drive Inn on Saturday July 11, 2009

1000 E. North Avenue; West Chicago, IL

<http://www.cascadedrivein.com>

**Information: 630-231-3151**

South side of North Avenue about 1 ½ miles East of Rt. 59

### Bring your collector Buick & park with us in the first row

Many of us meet at Augustino's Deli earlier for something to eat then caravan into the Drive in together at about 7:00 PM. The Drive In gates open at 7:00 PM

Augustino's Deli

300 W. North Avenue; West Chicago, IL 60185

630-293-8602

South side of North Avenue about a 1/8 Mile East of Rt. 59

**If you cannot get there that before 7:00 PM, just come to the Drive in. We will be near the front.**



