



Steve Kelly's 1965 Wildcat

It's my Grandfather's fault... By Steve Kelly

I was introduced to Buicks, particularly 1965 Buicks, by my then 73-year-old grandfather who purchased a 1965 Buick Wildcat DeLuxe 2 door hardtop new in 1964 from Jacobs Twin Buick in Chicago. I was enamored with the car, with such sleek styling and the potent nailhead engine. I had been a car nut for many years previous to this and followed "TV Tommy Ivo" in Hot Rod Magazine with his multi-Buick-engine dragsters and the nailhead powered hotrods of the day (today it's the "ratrods" with the nailheads which are very popular with the builders of these cars). This was my grandfather's first new car since my uncle wrecked his new 1937 Chevy in 1937 and he loved driving it – although too fast for my mother who after seeing how he drove it gave us kids a standing order that we couldn't ride with Gramps due to his heavy foot combined with his age.

In 1966 he bought a new '67 Skylark GS 400 coupe, trading in his Wildcat. He surprised me when he did this; I immediately went to the dealer to try to buy the

Wildcat but my Dad wouldn't cosign for it. (Although later he almost agreed to let me get a '66 Hemi Coronet from Grand-Spaulling Dodge! Go figure.) My first Buick was a 1950 Special 4-door that I traded a Honda 175 motorcycle for in 1980. I loved it, along with the attention and thumbs up that I got wherever I went. However, I never forgot my Grandfather's '65 Wildcat.

In 1990 I answered a small ad in Hemmings for two 4-door Wildcats from the same seller in St. Louis. My funds were sort of meager at the time, and with 6 kids I thought I could get into a nice 4-door Wildcat for less money than a coupe or convertible. What a surprise I had when I got to St. Louis with my friend Paul and the owner opened the garages that held the Wildcats. The Verde Green 1965 had been his father's car that his family bought new, with each member of the family choosing one option: Dad chose the power steering, Mom chose the air conditioning and the son chose the power seat. It is the DeLuxe model with a flat bench seat in tan and no power brakes. Believe me, it is a challenge.

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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 th 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	773-776-4794 cgatch@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Nunes	847-455-7796
	Rich George	630-551-3120
	Wayne "Mouse" Smith	708-308-5049

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 13 – BOP Day at Great Lakes Dragway

Jun 13 – Marquardt BOP Car Show

Jun 19 – In the Drink Cruise early PM then off to GLD

Jun 19 – CCGSCA Race at Great Lakes Dragway

Jun 26 – Buicks at Bunker Hill

Jul 4 – 4th of July Car Show – Countryside, IL

Jul 11 – CCGSCA Race #3 at Byron

Jul 24 to 31 – BCA Nationals in Ames, IA

Jul 30 to Aug 1 –BPG Horsepower Nationals – Hebron, OH

Aug 21 to 23 – Midwest Buick Challenge – Osceola, IN

Sept 11-13 – BOP races at Byron Dragway

Oct 9 – BOP races at Cordova Dragway

Oct 20 to 23 – GS Nationals in Bowling Green, KY

Continued from page 1. stopping a 4200# car without them, but you get used to it. The car was rust free, did have a few dings and over a hundred thousand highway miles but was well cared for and complete with a log of every item (including gasoline) that went into or on the car. It included a complete history of the car with all of the receipts and original paperwork.

The silver '66 Wildcat was the son's car that he bought new because he thought so much of his Dad's '65. The car was an absolute marvel. It was a Custom model that had a black vinyl top, black interior, PS, PB, PS, PW, and air conditioning. It had never been in the rain and had always been physically pushed or pulled into or out of the garage so the exhaust dust wouldn't settle on the paint! The car was just like the day it left the factory, but had 60K miles on it and again came complete with a service/gas log and all of the original paperwork and receipts. We were astonished at the care and condition of both cars! Paul pulled me to the side and said if I wasn't going to buy them, he would. Of course I didn't let that happen. I enjoyed both cars for years, but in 2002 I sold the '66 to a fellow BCA member and had the '65 repainted. It now has 114K miles on it, with the original chrome, interior and the

original R-12 in the A/C that will still freeze you out. It's not a perfect car and could use some detailing, but the engine is still a torque monster and I enjoy working on it and driving it.

I have two other '65 Wildcats that I someday hope to restore, a Custom convertible with all of the available options and another 4-door with the optional 425 engine, 4 speed trans and posi-traction. The story I got on this unusual car was that a fellow went to buy a Skylark GS but was told by his wife he had to buy a larger family car. He then ordered what he could in a 4-door to keep her happy and still enjoy himself a bit. I also have a '74 Century GS Stage 1 that Steve Ledger and I picked up in Kansas. My grandson, that some of you may have met, is trying to pry this one away from me. Maybe if he helps me restore it..... I also have an '87 GN that all of the kids and grandkids would like to have of course. I also have some "Brand X" cars that I enjoy working on and driving, a '54 Nash, '67 Coronet RT and a '62 Olds station wagon. (ed: nice collection!) I very much enjoy our Chicagoland GS club and all of the camaraderie. I think Loyd, Shari and all of the Officers are doing a great job and are to be thanked for all of their efforts.

Please take a look at the mailing label on your newsletter to see when your renewal is due.

Directors Garage Loyd Bonecutter

Very interesting spring we have had so far. Great weather typically during the week, and cold rainy weekends. Our Samantha Rix Memorial race was declared a rain out by the track while many of us were on the way with skies that looked encouraging. The GS National of course was pushed back a few months due to the heavy flooding at Beech Bend Raceway. Flood stage is 23 ft. when water is at the top of the bank, with this flood cresting at 44 ft. or near the eve line of the pit side bleachers. That is an incredible amount of water. So instead of hanging with our Buick buddies. am trying to put together this newsletter early.

The picture tells it all. Yes that is the roof of the pit side canopy over the bleachers. Definitely surreal. Hear the track is back in operation and as Brad Berger stated the bathrooms have to be cleaner than ever. By October 20 through 23 when we will be back there for the GS National's rescheduled date they should be back to normal though.

This delay did give me a chance to get more projects on our cars completed. By the time for Buick Race Day in Norwalk, actually had Shari's car ready.



Was great seeing so many Chicagoland members at Buick Race Day this year. We just had to get our Buick fix. Joe Garcia in Camper Dave's GN edged out TOP (Paul Brelie) to win the V6 class. Paul's 86 GN also placed 2nd in the Modified GN class so it was a great weekend for Chicagoland. Well enough for now later.



Shari's Scribblings

Membership News

Hi Everyone! It's mid-March and the weather is teasing us with some 60-degree temps. Tomorrow might be close to 70, but the weekend is going back into the dumpster and might snow! Must be March in Chicago....

I wanted to start this while the March meeting was still fresh in my memory. It was very well-attended – 54 people were there, about the same as the January meeting. Our first presentation was Jim Gollwitzer and Norb from Next Level Kustoms. These guys do a great job with engine/engine compartment detailing. They had a nice presentation, and answered questions. We went right into our club meeting, which was short and sweet. Then it was time for chili tasting. We had 13 wonderful chilies simmering, filling the air with mouth-watering smells. It was tough but Jon Skrobot won for the second year in a row. He won the \$50 Menards gift card and has to add to the traveling trophy once again! (Jon already disqualified himself for next year, by the way!) Steve Kelly came in second place, winning a \$30 Best Buy gift card. Barb Holda came in third, Bob Nunes came in fourth, and Brad Berger came in fifth. They won a gift card from Outback, Red Robin and Culvers respectively. Congrats to the various winners, and thanks to all who made chili – it was great! We then followed this with a presentation and discussion with Mike Phillips from Automotive Machine & Performance in Owensboro, KY. Mike always holds a great q-and-a session – he's almost a tradition with the chili contest anymore. (It helps that he loves chili, too!) So all in all it was a pretty good meeting!

The next event we had was the B-O-P-C swap meet in Wheaton, at the end of March. We saw most of our regulars, including a couple from Kansas that always attends! I heard some grumblings about attendance being down, and not as many items for sale, but there are always some nay-sayers. I thought it was as crowded as usual. Thanks to all the members that

stopped by, and renewed. It was great to see you guys! Thanks also goes to Chris Gatch, who helped at the table, and to Carol Nunes, who is a great sales-person!

We had our April meeting next, which was a tech session from Precision Turbo & Engine held at a new venue for us, the Darien Park District. Patrick Rubio from PT&E did a fantastic session – I think all the guys were happy. We were long overdue to host them, that's for sure! And the Park District was a great place for meetings! I want to thank Joe and Cindy Garcia for turning us on to this place – we'll be back if they'll have us! Almost 40 folks attended, ate hot dogs, beans and mac 'n cheese, then hung out in the parking lot, looking at the various Grand National's that were driven that day. We had one token GS, Jon Skrobot's new acquisition. It was nice to hear the "lubbity-lubbity" of his engine. Thanks to Patrick, all that attended, and major thanks to Beth Andrews and Linda Brellie for their help with the food. Thanks to you all the meeting was a good one!

So now we're a week away from attending the 30th anniversary of the GSCA in Bowling Green. Then the following week, we'll be going to the 20th Race Day at Norwalk, Ohio. May is going to be a busy month for Loyd and me. I hope to have a review of both before we go to press.

Member News...If your dues were due in January and you've not paid, this will be your last newsletter. Just so you know....

Welcome to the following new members: Stanley Himma, Libertyville, IL; Benny Galvan, Chicago, IL; and Nick Dedio, Warrenville, IL. I know I've already see Benny at a few meetings – hope to see you others at races or something. Thanks for joining!

Well, this is where I was going to give a report about the GSCA Nationals in Bowling Green, KY....I'm hoping everyone that was going heard in time that it was postponed until October 20-23, 2010. The terrible flood that destroyed so much of Nashville, TN also flooded Beech Bend Raceway. We'll try to show a few pictures elsewhere in the newsletter. I'm so glad that the GSCA was able to reschedule!

We'll be at Buick Race Day at Norwalk, OH for sure! We need our Buick fix, and need to see our out-of-town friends! I'm not sure if we'll get a report in on that or

not. I do know that more folks are attending, since Bowling Green is postponed. It will be nice to see a few more Chicagoland faces at this event!

Chris and I put together a cruise and car show schedule, and Joe finalized the race schedule. Please note that we tried to cover most of the suburban areas with these cruises. I know that there are a million more that we could have picked, but we all only have so much time. It's the same with car shows. Also know that not all board members can make it to all the shows and events. Some of us will try, and hopefully it will work out. If you go to one of them, make sure you talk to the other Buick drivers that show up. Our Buick network is an awesome one, but it has to start somewhere!

Highlights of the up-coming events – In the Drink Cruise, Lake Como, WI on June 19th. This is a very nice relaxing day, great bench racing opportunity. The Drive Inn night at the Cascade Drive Inn in West Chicago is a lot of fun, too. This year it will be held Saturday, June 12, with a rain date of July 10. We usually meet at Augustino's Deli beforehand for dinner, drive in together to the Drive Inn, then park together in the front row. This turns a few heads, trust me! The 4th of July Car Show is the only car show our club puts on. Please come share your holiday with us – 2 years ago we had 300 registered cars, with about another 80 non-registered. We also had 86 Buicks there. We will still have Buick-specific trophies. This year the car show will cost \$10, with the money going to the Union Food Pantry. Food, air conditioned facilities and seating will be available.

Last but not least is the Midwest Buick Challenge for 2010. This year, we had to move it to August 20-22, thanks to the Notre Dame Football Schedule. I have hotel rooms already reserved. The hotel info is:

#1 Comfort Suites North – considered the Host Hotel
404 North Point Boulevard

Elkhart, IN 46514

Phone # 574-206-1555

Group # 102439 – Group Name Midwest Buick Challenge. Rooms are \$64.59 per night. Cut-off date July 20, 2010

#2 Sleep Inn

220 Caravan Drive

Elkhart, IN 46514

Phone # 574-206-8290

Group #1210 – Group Name Midwest Buick Challenge. Rooms are \$67.96 per night. Cut-off date July 30, 2010

#3 Microtel Inn & Suites

3301 Plaza Court

Elkhart, IN 46514

Phone # 574-970-0420

Reservation #53872178 – Group Name Midwest Buick Challenge. Rooms are \$80.75 per night. Cut-off date August 6, 2010

It is up to you to grab your rooms – just make sure you mention our group and the group number to get our price!

I've made arrangements again this year for a Friday night Cruise Night at the Simonton Lake Drive Inn. I hope the weather holds this year – the last 2 years we were chased out of there by rain!

Well, I guess that's about enough from me. I hope to see you all this summer at one of the events! I hope any traveling that you do will be safe!

Please make it a point to come out to one of our summer events.

Cruise News

Chris Gatch

Hello everyone! Ahhh! Spring is in the air! Well, sort of as this has been a weird start to spring as one day it's in the 70's and the next in the 50's. Chicago weather - you got to love it! By the time you are reading this I am sure that mostly everyone will have had their cars out by now and able to enjoy some cruise nights with them for the long hot summer ahead. We have made some changes to the cruise schedule this year to help

accommodate everyone. I know that we have some big changes in the racing program by joining with the Corvette guys, 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 right around the corner 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 summer. Our first show was the Spring Dust-Off at Castle Buick in North Riverside. It was a

rather cool day but we had a great turnout of Turbo cars, which peaked at around 20 or so. The Chicagoland BCA who always invites us to these premiere events hosted this show and they are always free. I will have further information regarding the rest of the BCA shows to follow on the website if they are not done by the time of this publication. Unfortunately most of you have heard about the Nat's as they are still recovering from all of the flooding but have rescheduled the event for later this fall. This will be something different as it will be nice to see all of the fall colors down there and along the way.

We have talked about the cruise schedule this year and have decided to spread it out a little. We would like to get more club involvement but have fewer events - have them spread out from the far south to the far north with points in-between. With this new schedule we hope to appeal to the people in the various areas, as we understand that it's hard to get to some of these events during the week depending on your location. So hopefully this will work out and we will get to show off our club in force. One thing that I hope to get more involvement in this year is the Drive-In night that we will be having June 12 at the Cascade Drive-In in West Chicago. I would like to get more people to come on

out to this as this is a great event and a fun time as long as the weather holds out! (Rain date of July 10)

Well, this year its back.... Drum roll please...Gorilla Days! Well, sort of - the new name of the event will be simply July 4th Antique Car Show and will be held in Countryside at the same location where we have the holiday party. It is easily accessible and conveniently located on Joliet Road between I-55 & I-294 expressways. This will be the 1st annual show so come on out and support this great event as we hope to continue the tradition of the old show at this new location. This is probably the biggest collection of Buick's that you will see at a show in Illinois. The show will run from 10am to 2pm this year and we have a flier on the web site and elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

I would like to wish everyone a prosperous and safe upcoming year. The season is already 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!

Speaking of the cruise schedule here it is . . .

- ✓ Monday June 7 – Westchester Commons – 1 block east of Wolf Road on 31st Street 5-8 pm (please note that 31st is under construction)
- ✓ Friday June 11 – Rolling Meadows – Dominick's parking lot at Kirchoff and Meadows, about a mile east of Route 53. 5:30 to 9:30
- ✓ Tuesday June 22 – Bridgeview - Toyota Park – 71st and Harlem – enter at Gate 2 off of 71st Street. 6-9 pm
- ✓ Sunday June 27 – Elgin – Rookies, 2486 Bushwood Drive, 1 mile north of I-90, 1 mile south of Route 72, off Randall Road 6-9 pm
- ✓ Sunday July 4th – 4th of July Car Show – Countryside – see flier – 10 am – 2 pm
- ✓ Thursday July 8 – Riverside – Downtown on Burlington Avenue
- ✓ Saturday July 17 – Downer Grove – Culvers, 2500 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 5-10 pm We will be the featured club of the night!
- ✓ Tuesday July 20 – Manteno – Downtown Main Street, Take 57 to exit 322 east to Main Street 6-9 pm
- ✓ Friday July 23 – Franklin Park – Car show – Franklin Avenue between Calwagner and Ruby. We're thinking about parking together just behind Franklin Ave, in a small lot towards the west end of the car show area. Look for the Buicks. The show starts at 5:00 pm
- ✓ Sunday July 25 – Oakbrook Terrace – B-O-P car show – Oak Brook Promenade, 3301 Butterfield Road, SW corner of Butterfield & Myers Roads, 10 am – 4 pm
- ✓ Sunday August 8 – Addison – Uncle Harrys, 48 W. Lake Street, about 1 mile W of Route 83 6-9 pm
- ✓ Thursday August 12 – Melrose Park, McDonald's at 1st and North Avenues

- ✓ Thursday August 26 – Barrington, Harris Bank Parking lot, south Book Street, just south of Lake-Cook Road 6:30 – 9 pm
- ✓ Saturday August 28 – Mount Prospect, West Metra lot at Routes 83 and 14 (Elmhurst road/Main Street and Northwest Highway) 6-9 pm
- ✓ Friday September 3 – Tinley Park, Applebees, 16200 S. Harlem Avenue – probably 6-9 pm
- ✓ Wednesday September 29 – Naperville – Crest Creek Shopping Center, Off Ogden at 796 Royal Saint George, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

CCGSCA 2010 Race Schedule - Local & National Events

June

***June 19th, Saturday CCGSCA Race #2 - Great Lakes Dragway, Union Grove, Wisconsin.**

We will be scheduled with the Nitrous Street Car Brawl (NSCB) - (Times to be announced)

*June 25th - 26th, "Pinks All Out" Route 66 Raceway, Joliet Illinois

July

***July 11th, Sunday CCGSCA Race #3 - Byron Dragway, Byron Illinois.**

Track Opens at 9:00 A.M. T&T starts about 10:00 A.M. Eliminations start at about 12:00 Noon.

*July 30th to August 1st, Buick Horsepower Nationals - Buick Performance Group, Hebron Ohio.

August

***August 7th, Saturday CCGSCA Race #4 - Great Lakes Dragway, Union Grove, Wisconsin.**

We will be scheduled with the Nitrous Street Car Brawl (NSCB) - (Times to be announced)

***August 20th - 22nd, Chicago & Indiana Chapters GSCA**

"Midwest Buick Challenge" Osceola Dragway, Osceola Indiana

September

***September 12th, CCGSCA Race #5 - Byron Dragway, Byron Illinois.**

(Byron BOP and CCGSCA race #5 may be combined - Date subject to change)

*September 12th, "BOP" (Buick, Olds, Pontiac) Byron Dragway, Byron Illinois.

October

***October 3rd, Sunday CCGSCA Race #6 "The Finals", Great Lakes Dragway, Union Grove, Wisconsin.**

Gates Open at 9:00 A.M. T&T until we are ready to race eliminations.

***October 9th, "BOP" (Buick, Olds, Pontiac) Cordova Dragway, Cordova Illinois**

***October 17th, Sunday (CCGSCA RAIN DATE)**

November

***November 5th - 6th, Southern Buick Shootout, Columbus Georgia**

Joe Garcia – Race Chairman