

# FAST TIMES

## CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER BUICK GSCA

Spring 2012

Chapter of the **Gran Sport Club of America**; 625 Pine Point Circle; Valdosta, GA 31602

912-244-0577



Beauty owned by Denise Plencner

Beauty was delivered to Roger and Marie of Balwin, Missouri on March 4, 1987, who obviously treated her very well. My father Glenn Dempsey purchased the car on December 23, 1998, with 35,000 miles on it. He just wanted a very nice Turbo Regal that was not black. Being an all white T-Type I was not impressed.

Born into a serious car family, I was interested in cars from the get go, but I had always loved Mustangs. When the car came back in May 2003 after the restoration with the PPG Steel Grey Pearl paint over the Chrysler White paint, job, I fell in love. Dad also treated this Turbo Regal to the normal modifications including a TE44, Terry Houston down pipe, 36 lb injectors, chrome MAF pipe, 2 ½ inch Hooker exhaust system, Casper Ultra Chip, Casper Voltage Booster, oil pump booster plate and a drive shaft loop. Dad also added an underdrive pulley set, new radiator, belts, BF Goodrich TA tires and Boyd custom wheels. Then there was the special touches such as the trailer and cooler

painted to match the car. It adds to the impact this Beauty brings when making the grand entrance to a car show. The trailer plates "INSTNT T" is what Dad had named this car.

I got hooked on the Buick community and this car when I went with Dad to the GS Nationals in 2007. That was a trip of a lifetime, bringing very fond memories. Beauty's next trip to the Nationals was to spread Dad's ashes. Many of you may remember the fantastic burn out Beauty performed for my brother Guy in the Holiday Inn University Plaza parking lot. He started in the Marriott parking lot across the street continued the burn out all the way around the parking lot over speed bumps and around the corners returning to the Marriott still smoking the tires. Kind of tough on the TE 44 turbo, but is part of the GS Nationals folklore.

Since buying the car from Dad's estate, I've added a knock gauge, a 5557E

Continued on page 3

**Please volunteer for our chapter to continue to offer activities**

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 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, for too long.

### Volunteers for the Chapter

Contact Bob Nunes if you are interested in helping our Chapter continue exchange ideas, gathering local car show and cruise night information or plan activities for our members. Fresh ideas are needed to keep the Club exciting. Distributing the work among many volunteers makes it easy for all. The tasks do not take much of your time, and you will always have plenty of help, while hopefully having fun.

### Upcoming Events

Mar 11 – Chili Cook-off at Darien Park District

Apr 14 – Dyno Day at Sound Performance - Bensonville

Apr 22 – Larry Roesch Car Show and Swap Meet

Apr 29 – Samantha Rix Memorial Race – Byron Dragway

May 2 – 5: Turbobuick.com Nationals Burlington, NC

May 12 – Castle Buick Car Show – North Riverside, IL

Jun 15 – 17 Buick Race Day – Norwalk, OH

Jun 16 – Schepel Buick GMC Car Show; Merrillville, IN

Jul 4 – Car show in Countryside, IL one not to miss

Jul 22 – B.O.P.C Race at Great Lakes Dragway.

Jul 29 – Rizza Buick Car Show; Tinley Park, IL

Aug 3 & 4 – BPG Horsepower Nationals – Hebron, OH

Aug 24, 24 & 26 Midwest Buick Challenge – Osceloa, IN

Sep 9 – BOP Race at Byron Dragway

Oct 10 thru 13 – GS Nationals – Bowling Green, KY

Oct 13 – BOP Race at Cordova Dragway

Continued from Page 1  
transmission by Jimmy's.

Precision turbo and a



Indeed a Beauty under the hood

I have tried my hand at drag racing this car, and found it to be a blast. The crew at the Chicago Chapter GSCA has been very helpful as well as Jamie Wolcott who showed me the fine art of launching a Turbo Regal.



Personalized Plate for the Trailer

The car shows very well and I learned my ability to clean and detail from the best.

I am quite confident this car will remain with me for some time and brings fond memories of being with dad at car shows every time I drive it.

Denise Dempsey Plencner

We are always looking for cars to feature. There is a certain pro-charged 1970 that may show up soon.

Directors Garage

Loyd Bonecutter

Well this issue says "spring and" Tom Skilling is talking about the start of meteorological springs, so the worse of what winter could bring is behind us. This fall and winter has not seen me in the garage for anything except required maintenance. My big plans to swap heads on the blue Regal then put the ones from the Regal on the Grand National has not started. My paying job has taken too much time so far, but I have promised myself that I need to get the cars ready for the car show and racing season.

Our January meeting at Casper Electronics again was one of our better attended meetings. Amazingly enough we went through 10 gallons of Bishops Chili, all of Jimmy's doughnuts and the fixins Shari had ready to go with the food. You would think the Buick folks come to John Spina's shop fresh out of hibernation therefore not have eaten for months. It was great seeing everybody there and John and Jimmy provided lots of information for us to consider as we keep our Turbo Regals fit for another year.

Of course the late January Christmas Party was so much fun it went entirely too fast. Midnight Mike did his usual outstanding job of keeping things moving and Shari secured an abundance of raffle prizes, plus there were additional

items from Paul Castle and Midnight Mike as well as Dave Formanto. I believe we called somebody from the Pitts table a half dozen or so times as they buy a lot of raffle tickets. It was great seeing everybody who attended.

Our February meeting at The Parts Place at their new shop in Sycamore not only introduced many of us to a great vendor who caters to our Buicks in our backyard, but proved to be a great place to hold a meeting with lots of room to spread out. I was impressed with the amount of repopped as well as used parts on hand. Very impressive.

I'm hoping to have this newsletter ready to pass out to members at the BOPC swap meet at the Kane County Fair Grounds. As it is only a couple days away, I'd better get on the stick. Getting this far along the process is most of the way there.

Time to get of the winter doldrums and into the planning season plus preparing the cars to survive the season. For March of course is the Chili cookoff featuring Mike Phillips, and there is a Dyno Session planned for April. That gets us ready for the Samantha Rix Memorial Race which is always the kick off for our Drag Racing Season.

Hope to see you out there at an event or two.



Take a look at the Club Membership Discount Rally Insurance is offering, give Ellen or Lars a copy of your membership card when renewing your classic car insurance.

### Membership Scribblings

Shari Bonecutter

Hi everyone! So far it's been a nice mild winter – I'm waiting for the other foot to drop! Surely we'll get more snow and cold....but I guess we have to wait and see!

We had an excellent meeting at Casper's in January! We had 85 folks sign in, but I know we didn't get everyone! This is always our #1 meeting, in terms of attendance. I want to thank Jimmy Hussian from Jimmy's Transmissions for the doughnuts and pastry, and a nice presentation. Big thanks go to John and Justin Spina for their presentation and for letting us hold our meeting in their facility. We tried something different this time – we ordered Bishop's chili to feed the masses. It really was very good, and we didn't run out of food for a change! The day was perfect for this type of food – cold with spitting snow. This would not have happened without Beth Andrews, Linda and Paul Brelic, and Bob and Carol Nunes. Also thanks to Paul Castle for participating, as well.

One week later was the Christmas Party! This was big fun! 90 people attended, and seemed to have a great time! We had some prizes donated – thanks go to Melanie Mauser for donating 2 framed advertizing prints for Gran Sports; a goodie box from Dennis Kirban which consisted of a battery tender and some DVD's; a Grand National grill and other apparel from Paul Castle; and a few car models from David Formato. The BIG prize was a neon sign advertizing Buick Service Parts, although I heard a lot of folks also wanted the Cat Clock. There's always next year, you guys! Let's see – the food was good, as always. We sang an automotive version of the 12 Days of Christmas (you had to be there!), and a paper-airplane fight. We ended up having a competition between the tables as to who could throw their airplane the farthest. Paul Brelic ended up winning a 4-foot-tall trophy for his absolutely legal plane. (no, really!) Midnight Mike was totally awesome as a tune-spinner, and as an MC for our hijinks. I heard more laughter at this party so I think all had a good time! Thanks Bob and Carol Nunes for helping us move stuff over to the hall, and to Beth and Dana for help in setting stuff up. Thanks to all you members for coming and supporting the club. And the ladies that sold the raffle tickets – Beth, Robin and Autumn – you guys were awesome, yet again!

Two weeks later, we were at the Parts Place for our February meeting. This was set up by Paul Castle, for

which we are grateful. It was our first time here; hopefully we can hold more meetings there in the future. I think most folks were in a buying mode, and were given a tour of the facility. We had a turn-out of about 40 folks, including 7 Steves! We had a quick meeting, a pizza lunch, and some time to bench race with our friends. Bob Nunes helped us set up, once again – big thanks go out to him!

The end of the month is the Buick-Olds-Pontiac Cadillac Swap Meet in St. Charles, IL. I'll do my review in the next newsletter, unless this one is delayed for some reason.

Member News – Chris Gatch and his wife Anna are expecting a new addition to the family in April, so next newsletter will have details! Get Well wishes and prayers go to Srecko Novakovia, who had open heart surgery Feb. 13. Loyd says welcome to the zipper club! I want to welcome Bob Mianowski of St. Charles, IL; Larry Johnson of Lemont, IL and Marino Bertoncini of Chicago to the club. And welcome back to Lee Humphrey, Plano, IL; Leo Penrose, Sauk Village, IL; Richard Smith, Minooka, IL and Jeff Strickel, Palos Hills, IL. Hope to see you all at some of the events this year!

Loyd went to the BCA planning meeting last week, and we have the dates of some of their shows for this year. April 22 will be at Larry Roesch Chrysler Jeep Dodge in Elmhurst; May 12th will be at Castle Buick, North Riverside, IL; June 16th will be at Schepel Buick, Merrillville, IN; and July 29 will be at Rizza Buick and Cadillac, Tinley Park, IL. We'll have more info as we get fliers. Please check our website at [ChicagolandBuick.org](http://ChicagolandBuick.org).

Sunday, March 11 is our next meeting. This will yet again be our chili contest, featuring Mike Phillips as our guest speaker at the Darien Park District in Darien, IL. Mike will do another q-and-a session, which is always informative. As far as the chilies go, please bring a crock-pot of your finest concoction. We will all be voting on the best, and awarding gift certs for the top 5. The first place winner gets the "travelling chef's hat" trophy to keep for one year and to add to. The meeting starts at 10:00 am, with lunch starting at noon. No need to bring a chair to this one, for a change!

The April meeting takes place on Saturday, April 14. This will be a Dyno Session at Sound Performance in Bensenville, IL. Yes, it's the same place as last year.

If you want to put your car on the dyno, you can either sign up on the website or call Loyd or me. Just please realize that this is a commitment when you do sign up, and Sound Performance counts on you to show up. Lunch will be served, and you will have to bring a chair for this one.

Last but not least, Sunday, July 15 is when Mike Grippo of M&M Auto Appraisers will be available for anyone that needs an appraisal. He is charging us the club price of \$150, which is quite a deal! And the documentation you get is awesome. This comes in very handy for your collector car insurance. We will have the details in the next newsletter, and you will have to reserve a spot. We're not 100% sure yet but it will probably be held at CARS of America, in Glenview.

If you're interested, please contact Loyd or I. Our phone numbers are on page 2 of this newsletter, along with our e-mail addresses.

That's about it for scheduled meetings, until the fall. I know we'll have an outing at the Cascade Drive-Inn probably in June, and I think June 2nd is the date picked for the BCA's picnic in Lake Como, WI. The 4th of July car show is being planned again – this is always a great show, and the only one our club puts on. So please join us.

OK, enough from me. I also wanted to let you know that I appreciate all your guys support, and help, and especially your cars! (hee hee) Hope to see you soon!

### Please, take a look at your mailing label it has your renewal date

2012 Race Series By Joe Garcia, Race Director  
Let's Get Ready To Rumble.....

First a word about the 2011 race season. Congratulations to Paul Brelie for winning the 2011 Chicagoland Buick Club Championship. Paul was completely focused on winning the 2011 race series from the start and he knew it was going to be his championship. Paul received a four piston Trophy which was handmade by Bill Grupp and \$155 cash winnings! Second place went to Pete Van Tholen who will receive a three piston trophy and \$100 cash winnings, Third Place saw Loyd Bonecutter get a two piston trophy and \$50 cash winnings, and fourth place went to Brian Henrickson with a single piston trophy and a handshake (Sorry, no money payout to 4th place). Congratulations to all and many thanks to Bill Grupp for the very cool and unique handmade trophies with Genuine Buick 455 pistons.

We also had six different racers win the Best Reaction Time competition. Those racers were as follows: Race One, Pete Van Tholen (.011), Race Two, Keith Egan (.055), Race Three, Loyd Bonecutter (.023), Race Four, Cliff Bryan (unk), Race Five, Paul Brelie (unk), Race Six, Scott Pitts (.005). Each racer received \$25 and 10 points. This year we only had two racers win the "Run On Your Dial-In" competition, Brian Henrickson in race three and Steve Else in race five. Both racers received \$25 and 10 points.

We had another fun year at the track. This is a great bunch of Buick enthusiasts who get together for racing, bench racing, socializing, swapping ideas, trash talking,

and cookoutings. Yes, I have checked with the highest authority in the land and "cookoutings" is a word.

The 2012 race season is going to be very competitive. We will have several very competitive racers coming back that were out for some, or all of the 2011 season for various reasons. Dan Rocco will be back with his new Hot Rod blue GS. Joe G. destroyed his TA60 turbo last summer but will return with a new 6265 turbo, and Steve Blankenship has a new bullet in his GS convertible. I hear Bill Grupp has solved his carb problem and is ready for a championship comeback. Dave Leonhart will finally get his new stage 2 motor installed in his T-Type. Dave has always struck fear in the hearts of competitors in the other lane. Now with Dave behind the wheel of an 8 second car, that fear will change to "panic and anxiety" when racers see him in the other lane!!! Dave calls it "Getting in your head".

I've heard there is another stage 2 GN from the Midway airport area warming up and getting ready to rumble....Steve Pitts? Throw in our 2011 top five finishers into the mix and the competition is going to be very tough. Some of the Best Racers in the club don't race all six races, but if they did there would be a few guys shaking in their boots. There is also a rumor that Rich Fitzmaurice (GS) has his engine sorted out and wants to re-new an old rivalry with Paul Dubois (GN). How about it you guys, want to break out the Geritol and give it a go?

Maybe 2012 will be the year of the female racer. Last year Denise Dempsey Plencer raced with our club for the first time and is keeping the legacy of her father alive with his turbo car appropriately nicknamed "Beauty".

And then there is "Da Wagon" Hey Beth, when are we going to see "Da Wagon" at the track again?

So far we certainly can't complain about this winter. Hopefully everybody has taken advantage of the warmer than normal temperatures and worked on their cars to get it ready for the first race. One of the best ways to stay competitive in our race series is to try to make all the races and start racking up those points.

As everyone knows the wonderful State of Illinois has increased the tolls to an astounding amount. However, I've heard that the increase was for cars only and they did not raise the tolls for trucks and trailers. So that's good news for those of us with trailer queens.

The 2012 season will again have six races scheduled the year, three races at Byron and three races at GLD. If one race is rained out it will not be re-scheduled. If a second race is rained out, this race will be re-scheduled. Our goal is to race a minimum of five races. Surprisingly we did not have one race rained out in 2011. It's all in the scheduling! Ya right...

For those wondering about races at Route 66 this year, I had a tentative "Go" from Route 66 to schedule two races with their test and tune dates. The problem is their T&T dates are all on Friday nights. I don't think this would work very well especially for those that work. I realized it would be a little hectic to leave work, rush home and put the car on the trailer, pack a cooler, get

something to eat, drive in rush hour traffic, and be at the track by 4:00. Needless to say I took a pass on Route 66 this year. Elgin, Carpentersville, Sleepy Hollow, McHenry, Wisconsin, Niles, You guys with me on this decision???

In closing I would like to give a big thanks to Loyd and his crew for putting on some really great technical Sessions so far this year. There has been something for everyone. It's difficult to organize tech sessions for those with highly technical and advanced turbo vehicles while at the same time keeping the GS-V8 guys from getting bored and confused....!!! I thought it was a good idea bringing checkers and dominos to those meetings for the GS guys....LOL. (Boy I'm going to catch it for this one).

Let The Trash Talking Begin  
Let's Get Ready To Rumble 2012!!!

The following are the dates for the 2012 race season:

Byron, Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> – Samantha Rix Memorial Race

GLD, Sunday June 3rd

Byron, Sunday July 1st

GLD, Sunday August 12th

Byron, Sunday September 9th (Byron BOP weekend)

GLD, Sunday September 30th



Saturday, May 12, 2012 · 10:00am - 2:30pm  
Castle Buick- GMC  
7400 W Cermak Rd (22nd & Harlem)  
North Riverside, IL

Buick – Olds – Pontiac Car Show--- Open to All BCA & Chicagoland BCA members-- Also any ROA (Riviera owners) & GS, GSCA, GN/Turbo members and anyone with a Buick wanting to join in on the fun.

Third Annual Chicagoland Chapter BCA Spring Dust-Off Car Show @ Castle Buick-GMC, No Riverside, IL. Free Registration, Dash Plaques, Awards. Food provided to All Registered Participants. Make your plans now to attend.

Paul Castle will have his WORLD OF MOTORWORKS display available, in event you are looking for some parts. You can call him ahead of time at 866-794-6320 if you want him to bring something specific to the show.



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## Meeting, Technical Session and Chili Cookoff

**Sunday; March 11, 2012; @ 10:00 am**

Darien Park District

7301 Fairview

Darien, IL 60561

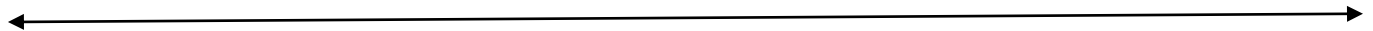
Our Chili Cookoff moved to the Darien Park District last year which proved to be a great place to host this event. Time to show off your chilli. We will be presenting gift certificates to the winners again and of course pass the winner chef hat along to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner.

Mike Phillips owner of Automotive Machine & Performance in Owensboro, KY will be on hand to cover all aspects of building high performance Buick engines. If you are planning to freshen up your engine, need help selecting a camshaft or contemplating some headwork you should not miss this session. He also has a number of parts he can provide.

We are looking forward to the presentation and of course the chili. Our regular business meeting will start at 10:00 am before the feeding frenzy and before the technical session.

### Directions:

- From I-294 (Tri-State) take I-55 South (Southbound I-294 has a toll at exit)
- Continue past exits for county line road and Route 83 Kingery Highway (4.8 miles)
- Take the Cass Avenue Exit northbound (4.8 miles)
- Take Cass Avenue North to 75<sup>th</sup> Street (little over a mile)
- Turn left (west) on 75<sup>th</sup> Street
- Take 75<sup>th</sup> Street to Fairview (little less than a mile)
- Turn right (north) on Fairview
- The Darien Park District Building at 7301 will be to the right.



## Samantha Rix Memorial Race

Sunday – April 29, 2012

Byron Dragway / Rock River Road / Byron, IL

**Owners - Ron Leek & B. J. Vangsness@ 815- 234-8405**

Joe Garcia has worked hard to put together the 2012 racing season. He had the schedule all layed out and I took the Board Offline causing him to loose two hours of creative writing. The first race is in memory of Samantha who assisted Tom and Carol Rix in organizing and running our Chapter's early spring events.

We invite all new members and others who just want to try out their Buick Muscle at the track. Nothing like having that time slip to show your buddies how your Buick really runs.

Race Organizers will be on hand to show members new to racing how to maximize their fun on a spring day at the racetrack, with their Buick. After a long winter many of us are anxious to get our cars out for the season to enjoy the shock and awe of Buick performance.

Please get to the track early if you want to test and tune before the racing. Due to the church on a nearby hill Test and Tuning does not start until 10:00 AM. Tentative plans are for a driver's meeting at the Staging Lanes at 12:00 PM with eliminations starting at 1:00 PM. Changes will be announced.

### Directions

- Interstate 88 west to Interstate 39
- Interstate 39 North (toward Rockford) to Exit #111 - State Route 72
- State Route 72 West 13 miles to the four (4) way stop sign at the bridge south of Byron.
- Continue straight on Rock River Road instead of turning for State Route 72
- Follow Rock River Road west about a mile
- The drag strip is on the left





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**Dyno Session with Meeting**  
**Saturday; April 14, 2012; around 10:00 am**  
Sound Performance  
554 N York Road  
Bensenville, IL 60101  
630-893-5002

Turbo Cliff worked out the details with owner Larry Prebis for Chapter members to dyno test our cars on his equipment. This will be our second year there and our members liked driving their own cars on the dyno. The meeting will be held between a few of the dyno pulls while the crew switches cars.

It is time to strut your Buick's stuff and for the rest of us to get our fix and be amazed at the demonstration of Buick power.

Cost will be \$50 for 2 dyno pulls taking approximately 30 minutes per car. Please make your reservations on the Chapter Board or call 708-485-8477 for your reservation.

This should be big fun for our club members. Please bring chairs for the Event, and bring an appetite as there will be food brought in for us there near lunch time.



**Directions**

**From I-294 South bound**

- Take the Irving Park Road (Illinois 19) Exit
- Take Irving Park Road west around the south end of O'Hare to York Road
- Turn right (North) on York Road and follow to 554 York Road

**From I-294 North bound**

- Take I-290 (Eisenhower) Exit west
- Follow I-290 to York Road Exit.
- North on York Road past Irving Park Road
- Follow to 554 York Road

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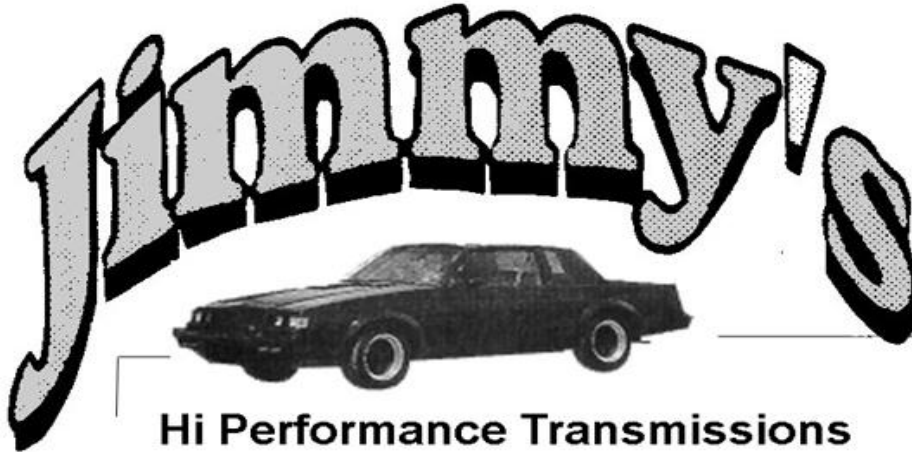


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