

FAST TIMES

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER BUICK GSCA

Spring 2013

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

912-244-0577



Pete Van Tholen's 1986 T-Type

For participants of our Chicagoland Chapter drag racing series, Pete Van Tholen is a regular racer. This particular car is not raced, but has been with Pete since it was new.

Pete is part of the Harders' Gang that regularly meets at Brian Hendricksen's shop. The original group all graduated from Timothy Christian in the early 1980s, and included Steve Van Byssum, Pete Van Tholen, Brian Hendricksen, Dave Smith, Dan Rocco, and Ed Wolters.

The first Gran Sport owned by Steve Van Byssum influenced this group of young men to eventually own their own big block Buick Gran Sports. It was a 1972 Emerald Green car sporting a 350 engine. This car was driven to High School and parked at a friend's house across the street. The gang used to stare at this car

while in class every day and dream of the freedom this car represented.

Once Brian purchased the shop the group of friends started hanging out there, with the group expanding to Perry Carlini, and Jack Fisher. Eventually the group converted to owning Buicks with Brian and Steve the ring leaders.

Pete bought a 1984 dark blue metallic T-Type in 1984, based on the test drive performance at McCaulliffe Buick in Wheaton. He did not realize at the time the treat he was in for, as he chose the Buick Regal due to the groups preference for Buicks and the need for a car to drive. He owned that car for two year putting about 37,000 hard charging miles on the car, but when his brother gave him a ride in a 1986 Grand National the hot air car had to go.

Continued on page 3

Please volunteer to help our chapter to continue 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:

Loyd 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 10 – Meeting & Chili Contest - Darien Recreation Center
Apr 12 – Dyno Session at Sound Performance
Apr 21 – Larry Roesch Chrysler Jeep Car Show - Elmhurst
Apr 26-28 – Buick Race Day – Norwalk, OH
May 1-4 – Turbo Buick dot Com - Burlington, NC
May 11 – Spring Dust Off at Castle Buick in North Riverside
May 11 – CCGSCA Race 1 at Rte 66
Jun 2 – Samantha Rix Memorial Race – Byron Dragway
Jun 23 – CCGSCA Race 3 & BOP day at Great Lakes Dragway
Jun 27 – CCGSCA Race 4 (Saturday) at Great Lakes Dragway
Jul 4 – Car Show details being worked out stay tuned
Jul 28 – Rizza Buick/Cadillac Car Show - Tinley Park, IL
Aug 2-3 – BPG Nationals – National Trail Raceway
Aug 22-24 – Midwest Buick Challenge – Osceola Dragway
Sep 8 - CCGSCA Race 5 & BOP day at Bryron Dragway
Sep 28 - CCGSCA Race 6 (Saturday) at Bryron Dragway
Oct 16-19 – GS Nationals – Bowling Green, KY

Continued from Page 1 In early August 1986 Pete purchased the 1986 T-Type shown in the picture above at Packet Buick in Maywood after seeing it on his travels through the area.

In the first year he put about 15,000 miles on the car, but when he got the company truck, the car was retired to weekend duty, and an occasional drive by his brother when he traded in his GN for a Corvette. The T-Type now has 21,000 miles on it and is bone stock, except for the intake air system, upgraded charged air hoses off as the stock ones blew off, three sets of speedometer cables that broke when exceeding the 85 mph limit and R215-65 BF Goodrich tires replacing the older original Eagle GT tires. Having paid for the car before having kids, this car mainly sits in the garage, with occasional car show appearances and weekend duties.



One afternoon in the early 1990s Pete grew quite fond of big block Buicks when Steve blasted by him in his 1970 triple black GS on 31st Street west of Wolf Road while on a aggressive jaunt. This need for speed was met on July 4, 2007 when Pete bought the 1970 four speed GS. The first weekend of ownership brought the car to the CCGSCA race where it pulled low 13s with the four speed on street tires. The first winter the engine was pulled and freshened up with 20 over diamond pistons, and SPI intake replacing the Edelbrock Performer manifold, Stage II aluminum heads and headers. That combination twisted axles so a Chevy 12 bolt differential was installed. Finally an TH-400 was installed to limit the damage to final drive

parts. Last fall at the GS Nationals this car pulled a respectable 11.46 at 119 with a 1.6 plus 60 ft. time.



This car has been restored to stock with the original engine with ported stock heads, a Edelbrock B4B and the four speed. New inner fenders and core support were added to restore the front end to like new condition.

The latest installment of Pete's need for speed is his race ready 1969 GS equipped with a 12 bolt differential equipped with 4.33 gears that are to be changed to 4.10. The blue block Pete purchased from Heavy D is at AMP getting prepared with his Stage 2 heads and SP1 with goodies specified by Perry Carlini. This Mike Phillips prepared engine will be coupled with the Turbo 400 from the 1970 car to be an planned 800 HP beast. Brian Hendricksen has done his magic on the wiring for the machine to be reliable at the drag strip, and cleaned up a lot of other.



This will be quite the racing season with Pete's new Buick, Perry Carlini & Dan Rocco with new engines, Brian Hendricksen with a freshly prepared 430, and Ed showing off his freshly painted 1971 GS at a race or two. Look out Turbo Regal Racers the Big Block cars from Harder's will be out in force.

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.

Shari Bonecutter's Memories

Shari was from a car family. Her Father was always on the hunt for another car, often purchasing cars targeted for friends and relatives who had a need. He was not into working on them, having enough resources to have those services provided for him.

When we would see a particular car, Shari would often say, Dad got mom a convertible like that.

Being into motorcycles Shari would ride with me where ever the road would take us. We spent quite a few vacations with days on end riding to a destination.

In the fall of 1989 we purchased the Grand National, the moment on our lives were changed. At the Bonecutter reunion of August 1990, our cousin Earl ran out to greet us in the Grand National, declaring wait until your cousin Belva sees this. At that reunion we received information on all things Buick that we soon learned for ourselves.

My first GS Nationals was in 1993 and Shari joined me in 1995, which was a definite hook, so we never missed one since. Our introduction to the Chicagoland Chapter was in 1996 through a letter from Steve Russo and Bernie Rekus, inviting us to join in on the local fun. At the time we heavily involved with the Chicago Beer Society and they seemed to have activities on the same dates. Therefore our first meeting was the Christmas Party at Bernie's house on the south

suburbs. Since we had to leave relatively early we met early comers to the party.

Our meeting Bernie and Steve resulted in our being invited to newsletter folding parties, that of course extended to our having a picnic in our back yard in 1997, which turned out huge, to helping arrange activities, to starting the Chapter Website to eventually being fully involved.

Shari's membership responsibilities came along shortly when the data base crashed once and we had to bring our laptops over to Kurt Hoover's place to type in all the available data, then combine to one spreadsheet.

As you all know Shari took to running the club as it was a natural hidden talent she had. She was always there to lend a hand and often took an idea and ran off with it, arranging all the details from who needed to be involved in setting up, to securing their trust and commitment, to making sure the membership knew about the event and who needed to fill in each necessary component, and bring the necessary materials.

Her "membership scribbling" were often completed long before we had the cover car information and I got around to writing my little bit. Often I would consult her section first in order to just not repeat what she had already said, therefore keeping mine short. I just got through reading her last entry and discovered it is like reading minutes for most every meeting we had. Will truly miss this insight. She truly ran the CCGSCA.



Thanks to all who offered condolences, went to the wake or memorial service.

Membership Dribblings by Beth Andrews

Hi everyone, I'm going to attempt to write an article... wish me luck

It's the 2nd week into March with 9 inches of snow on the ground and I am so ready for spring, though we have not had it as bad as the Northeast this year.

We had our Club Holiday Party on the 26th of Jan. turnout was a bit low but everyone who attended had fun. Thank you to all who gave gifts for our raffle: Steve Russo – tool kits, battery charger, gloves. Meline – Gift Baskets. John Stevens – GSX Mailbox, the Bonecutters - Santa w/ racing tree, sign, and Cat clock. Paul Castle – T-shirts, Headlight Bezels, Dash pad cover, ZDDP. Kirbin – DVDs. Thank you to whoever gave the model Airplane, it was quite sought after. If I have forgotten anyone or left something out, I apologize. Please send me a message and I'll be sure to give credit where credit is due in the next newsletter. Some of the winners of raffle prizes were: Scott Pitts – GSX Mailbox, Steve Russo – Santa w/racing tree, Jamie Wolcott – Model Airplane, Dana Andrews – GN Dash over & Steve Eckstrom – headlight Bezel.

Feb 10th was our Meeting at Casper's which is always a good time, we served pizza and chili for lunch, turnout was good, I think we had 52 in attendance. Of course, the pizza went in record time. John spoke of relocating his shop due to the owner of the building he

is in now wanting to use the space. He also talked about the possibility out of state relocation; I know we sure will miss him & his crew if they do move out of Illinois.

Feb 13th marked an extremely sad day for all of us, with the passing of our beloved Shari. She put up a good fight but the Big Man upstairs had other plans, he needed a Buick girl to arrange drag races in Heaven. She will forever be missed & remembered. She's watching over all of us.

Thanks to all who stopped by our table at the February 24 BOPC Swap meet. We had several renew on the spot and moved quite a few T-Shirts and Sweat Shirts. Would like to thank Chris Gatch, Paul Brelie and Bob Nunes for helping me fill some big shoes.

March 10th is the Chili Cook-Off, I hope you all have your chili perfected. This year we are just doing 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. Well announce the winners in the next newsletter.

Also don't forget to renew your membership if you have not done so already.

Thanks & Come on Spring!

Editor's note you did a great job Beth!

Please look at your mailing label to determine when your membership expires

2013 Racing Season – through the end of June

Joe Garcia has worked hard to put together another great racing season for our members. From his posts about meeting with the guys at Route 66, we could tell he got quite frustrated with them. At any rate here is the schedule:

April 26th – 28th, Buick Race Day - Norwalk, Ohio. This is a fun event and not very far away. Friday is T&T, Saturday is a car show, and Sunday is Racing. Drive home Sunday after the race.

May 1st – May 4th, TurboBuick.com Nationals - Burlington, North Carolina. Richard Clark is a great host at this event and his extravagant facility is a must see. If you're lucky, Richard might give you a tour of his underground bunker on a former missile base that's loaded with Turbo Regals. This event is something every turbo enthusiast, should experience at least once. If you're a gun enthusiast he also has a shooting

range behind his facility. Call ahead to see if they plan on doing some target shooting this year.

May 11th, Saturday CCGSCA Race #1 – Route 66 Raceway, Joliet Illinois. Our modern day inaugural race at Route 66 and our first Saturday of three scheduled Saturday race dates this year. More information and times will be posted later.

June 2nd, Sunday CCGSCA Race #2 – Byron Dragway, Byron Illinois - Samantha Rix Memorial Race

Track opens 9:00 A.M. Qualifying starts (about) 10:00

June 23rd, Sunday CCGSCA Race #3 – Great Lakes Dragway, Union Grove Wisconsin. This will be in conjunction with the GLD BOPC race day. Track Opens at 9:00 A.M. Qualifying starts about 10:00 A.M. Eliminations start about 1:00 pm.

June 27th – June 30th NHRA Nationals, Route 66 Raceway Joliet Illinois

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Photo by Patsy Charney

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Cliff Bryant Memorial Dyno Session
Saturday; April 13, 2013; 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 for our first dyno test our cars on his equipment. This will be our third year there and our members liked driving their own cars on the dyno. A brief meeting may 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

<http://www.chicagolandbuick.org>

The Following Weekend on Sunday April 21, 2013 we are invited to:

Northern Illinois Region WPC (Chrysler Club) Swap Meet and Car Show
 Larry Roesch Chrysler Dodge Jeep
 200 W. Grand Ave. / Elmhurst, IL.
 All Makes are Welcome (1991 and older) with a \$12 entrance fee
 Car Show Registration 8am - 11am
 Trophies and Raffle at 2pm



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23th Annual



Summit Motorsports Park - Norwalk, Ohio

Friday, April 26

Time Trials - Qualifying

Gates Open 5:00pm Time Trials 6:00pm - 11:00 pm

Race or Watch: \$12, Child 6-12: \$5

Saturday, April 27– All Buick Show

ARBYs -- 347 Milan Ave. -- Norwalk, Ohio

(Stock, Modified and Race Car Classes, Door Prizes and Trophies will be awarded)

Vendors and
Swappers
Welcome!

Vendors and
Swappers
Welcome!

Peer Judging 9 AM – 1 PM Awards 2 PM

\$10/Car Entry Day of Show - Spectators Free

More Racing – Regular Saturday Race Program

Gates open at 8 AM

Time trials 9 AM Racing Starts at 7PM

Super Pro C&D (7.00 – 11.99)\$30 Pro C&D (8.00 – 13.99) No Delay Boxes,etc...\$30

Sportsman C&D (12.00 – 19.99).....\$20 Stock C&D.....\$15

Girls.....FREE, Adult Men.....\$15, Child 6-12...\$5, Child Under 6.....FREE

Dinner, Norwalk Eagles, Order off Menu 6:30PM

Sunday, April 28

Summit Motorsports Park -- Norwalk, Ohio

(cash payouts and trophies will be awarded)

Open to all BUICK Powered Vehicles Only!

“Quick 16” Program with Cash Payouts

(Quick 16 - Requested to Pre-enter)

Ladies and 2-Bracket Races, TSO, TSM, THS & 2nd Chance Race

Delay boxes allowed only in Quick 16.

GATES OPEN at 8:00 AM

(Pre-entry Closes April 13)

Race Pre-entry	\$30/Car & Driver
Race Day Entry	\$50/Car & Driver
10x20 Vendor Space	\$30/Space
Spectators/Pit Crew	\$15 each
Children 6-12	\$5 Each

- For More Information -

Roberta Vasilow (810) 655-8277 Michigan email: buickracer@comcast.net

Bill Wills (330) 747-1029 Ohio email: skylarkwilly@aol.com

Hotels: Best Western - Norwalk 419-663-3501

All American Inn – Norwalk 419-663-1922

Booking Code: Buick Race Day

Track questions - Please call 419-668-5555

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Samantha Rix Memorial Race

Sunday – June 2, 2013

Byron Dragway / Rock River Road / Byron, IL

Owner - B. J. Vangsness 815.234.8405 - Track

Manager - Brian Folk 815.391.0000 - Office

Joe Garcia has worked very hard to put together the 2013 racing season, scoring a race at Rte 66. The first race at Byron is reserved for the 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. With the event in June we will be assured of great weather and some members will have a little more time to prepare their car for this race.

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

Please be sure to call the track before venturing to Byron if the weather looks iffy.