

FAST TIMES

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER BUICK GSCA

Spring – Summer – Fall 2015 Chapter of the Gran Sport Club of America; 625 Pine Point Circle; Valdosta, GA 31602

912-244-0577



Doug Hecker's 1965 455 Powered Gran Sport

Like most of us car guys Doug always was interested in cars with a SS 396 four speed and a 1969 Pontiac Gran Prix that he was hot rodding when the hype on the race of the Stage1 versus Hemi shoot out in the 80s caught his attention. Having attention tweaked started researching this engine.

Doug's first Buick was a 1970 Skylark Convertible, with a 350 engine it was not a healthy as it should be so Engie Bauza in Pennsylvania was sought for an upgrade and a beefed up 455 and four speed was installed. It touned out Engie sold the 350 engine with the new owner discovering three wiped cam lobes with one being a perfect round circle, explaining the lackluster performance of the pulled engine. Obviously they made good on the sold Buick 350 engine.

At 23 years of age Engie talked Doug into going to Englishtown. Doug's first run with the torque and four speed transmission on Radial TA tires yielded a very smoky run with the car fishtailing one way through first gear, the other way through second gear and again the original way through third gear. This spectacular run yielded a mid 15 second run. Doug was hooked on that memorial run, and became a regular at Englishtown with slicks added a few weeks later and a roll cage shortly thereafter.

Twenty five years ago Doug started looking for a race car as the convertible was not fitting the bill. From attendance at Northeast Chapter Buick events he decided there were enough 70 through 72 Gran Sports out there racing, so was looking for a 1965 Skylark or GS.

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 automobile enthusiast clubs.

Chapter Volunteers

Director	~	Tim Bartel	tbartel@ymail.com
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Co-Director / Turbo Regal	~	Loyd Bonecutter	708-485-8477 loydb@chicagolandbuick.org
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Race Chairman		Joe Garcia	jrg3517@comcast.net
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4 th of July Show		Bill Grupp	jackbot@yahoo.com
Midwest Challenge		Tim Bartel	& volunteers
Christmas Party		Steve Russo	s.russo@mchsi.com
Volunteers	~	Bob Nunes	bhnunes@yahoo.com
		Rich George	richard.george@bp.com

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:

Membership Chairman
Chicagoland Chapter GSCA
1005 Beau Brummel DR.
Sleepy Hollow IL 60118

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 1005 Beau Brummel DR.

Sleepy Hollow IL 60118, 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

Jan 23 – CCGSCA Christmas Party – Countryside, IL
Feb 13 – CCGSCA Meeting – To be determined
Feb 21 – BOPC Swap Meet at Kane County FG
Mar 13 – Chilli Contest – Darian, IL
Apr 23 – Dyno Day at Sound Performance - Bensenville
May 4 - 7 – Turbo Buick Nationals - Burlington, NC
Jun 11 – Buick Powered Grapple at Gateway
Jul 4 – Car Show - Sleepy Hollow, IL
Jul 24 – Dick Miller BOP @ Norwalk, OH
Sep 14–17 – GS Nationals – Bowling Green, KY
Need ideas for 2016 events. Please get involved in planning of events to keep our chapter fresh.

Continued from Page 1 A decent 1965 Skylark was found in Kentucky earlier, but it was already sold. Engie found a rusty 1965 Gran Sport with a 401 for \$275. This car needed a trunk floor, lower quarters and wheel well work that was completed in the process of putting together. The restoration included installing a roll cage, back-halving the car, adding a Ford nine inch differential with a healthy 455 Stage 1 and fresh turbo 400. Doug got a good deal as Engie indicated he could not charge for all the hours to set up the back-halved car settling for \$800, and this would be his first and last one completed. Several years Rick Martinez paid \$3000 for the same work.

Doug and Rick Martinez were the first North East Chapter representatives to go to Cecil County Buick event organized by Doug Downey and the Delaware and Maryland guys. They reported back that is an event the Chapter should participate in so since then are regulars at this Northeast Chapter organized event. This event cemented Doug's participation at many National as well as Regional Buick events, with the 65's debut at the 1992 event.



The 65 Gran Sport has had too many engines installed to count, with a turbo 400 admirably performing the chores before moving to a Powerglide. Car currently sports a Pee Gee Performance built Tomahawk block and is now a totally tube chassis car.

Editor Note: Winner of the king of the hill at the 2015 GS Nationals.

New ideas and ways of doing things are welcome, contact Tim Bartel or Bob Nunes.

2015 Went By Too Fast

Loyd Bonecutter

Welcome Tim Bartel as the Chicagoland Chapter GSCA Director. Tim was instrumental in setting up to great Buick cruises this summer in concert with Turbo Farm, and has demonstrated a strong desire to keep this chapter going, and has the support of us who want to keep our chapter thriving.

This has been a slow year for our chapter that Tim should be instrumental in improving. He has lots of great ideas that hopefully our membership will appreciate and help to keep activities alive in the upcoming year.

This year for me was one of transition. I will be relocating to central Indiana after retiring early in 2016. The majority of my free time in the last half of 2015 was caring for my future residence that is the family homestead. The farm has been in the family since the 1870s when my great-grandfather settled there. The barn will house my car collection, so has received a majority of my attention to date. This particular building was built at my father's direction in 1950 to replace the

original log cabin that was used as the barn after the farmhouse was constructed around 1910. Rebuilding of the farmhouse will be my next phase of reconstruction of the farm, after I move down there. I will remain working part time for my current employer to aid the transition into my retirement.

It has been my pleasure since 1998 to be the Director of this Chapter, but as many of you know Shari was very instrumental in keeping the day-to-day operations of the Chapter alive. Without her to nudge me along or just pick up the ball and run with it, a lot less would have happened.

I sincerely apologize for being quite delinquent on the preparation of this newsletter. Many starts but always missing information, or another needed trip to the farm this summer that I'm moving to at the end of the year. In August got the car for the issue completed in this newsletter, but got seriously got sidetracked

Thanks to Beth and Dana for the pictures of Doug's car at Norwalk and Doug for the article. I am astonished it is 2016 already, where has 2015 gone. In 2015 I had

only been to a couple of cruise nights, and very few car shows, but the Chicagoland GSCA racing series kept me coming back as the group of guys to race with are the best, and the competition is tough. Joe Garcia is doing a great job running the program.

The combined Buick Race Day and BPG Nationals was refreshingly well attended, with fantastic racing at the Summitt Norwalk Dragway on Friday and the Car Show at Arbys in Norwalk on Saturday. As with many Buick events recently Sunday was a rainout so we went home earlier than expected. The rain date was announced for October 3rd, but it was called off due to bad weather forecast as well.

The Sleepy Hollow Independence Day Car Show supported by the Chicagoland Chapter GSCA went quite well. We counted over 130 cars, but only 100 registered. Somewhat disappointing that many did not enter their car to be a part of the show. Our new DJ who did a great job for us, and helped promote the car show. This show is getting better every year. Would like to thank the folks who came out to help run the car show. It was a blast as always. Congratulations to Bill Grupp who got a 1st place for Buick and Best of Show in his great looking Riviera.

The GS Nationals in Bowling Green was fantastic this year. For the first time in several years there was no Chapter Tent as sales of Tee Shirts turned out to be less profitable than expected for all the hours we kept members on hand for sales. The state of Kentucky deciding to collect sales tax from us also put a damper on our enthusiasm for selling there. Attendance was lower on Wednesday the first day, but there was lots of racing action. The weather was absolutely perfect all week. Montana Grill was rebuilt and back in operation, after a fire burned up the kitchen just before the Nationals last year. Steve Kelly found a fantastic microbrewery that had a special so we got to sample White Squirrel's plus a visiting microbrewery's wares. The food was even quite good as well, plus the brew masters came by and spent a lot of time with us.

The Friday Car Show at the GS Nationals went quite well with an amazing array of muscle car Buicks to appreciate. Thanks to Chicagoland folks who participated in the judging as always. In particular would like to thank Steve Kelly and Steve Ledger for organizing the judging for another year. As always the racers just wanted to get back to the track. The speeds of the TSO (Turbo Street Outlaw) cars are

simply amazing so they were limited to eighth mile racing, with fantastic trap speeds. The last run of the event worth waiting for brought Doug Hecker against John Csordas Junior with Doug winning.

The 2015 Chicagoland Drag Racing series was again well run by Joe Garcia that has the patience to work around other planned events plus the relationship with three drag strips to pull off a great season of racing. We had six (6) races with the first one at Route 66, race 2, 3, and 6 at Byron and race 4 & 5 at Great Lakes. The competition was fierce as Joe has us concentrating on reaction times to set up the tree. There were on average 18 participants for the races. , In the end the points standings were as follows:

- 1) 270 pts Pete VanTholen
- 2) 252 pts Dan Weiland
- 3) 230 pts Paul Brellie
- 4) 226 pts Bob Hoffman

Steve Russo has been hard at work making sure our Christmas Party will be successful this year. Since Capri raised their prices so much, he rented the hall across the parking lot. I understand he has selected a caterer and instead of a DJ we will have video of past GS Nationals and piped in music for our entertainment. Steve is gathering a lot of great presents for our raffle, so this should be another great party. Please let Tim know if you are coming. He will be contacting all the past participants for a head count needed for the caterer.

For our February 13, 2016 meeting we have a couple of vendors that we are working with for our meeting. It is stalled, but when things are settled we will post on the board and FaceBook.

For the Chilli Cookoff the larger room at the Darien Recreation Center is reserved. So far we have no guest speakers set up, but hopefully there will be plenty to talk about as Tim and crew starts to get the year's planning underway. Please bring your favorite chilli to our event for all to enjoy and for potential prizes. We all enjoy tasting the various kinds of chilli presented. This is my favorite event.

The Turbo Cliff Memorial Dyno Session will be held at Sound Performance. This is always well attended, and offers a great place to see Buick power right in front of you. Generally the weather is great and gives our members a chance to test that tune before racing season starts.



CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER

BUICK GS CLUB OF AMERICA

**MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THE
CCGSCA HOLIDAY PARTY**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016 at 6:00 PM

The CCGSCA party offers a chance to celebrate the post Christmas season with fellow Chicagoland Buick Performance nuts! Please come out of the warm garage to brave the cold to join us. This catered event is always good and we have plenty to raffle off.

This year the party is at: **Local 150 Union Hall** (East across parking lot from Capri Banquets)
6200 Joliet Road
Countryside, Illinois, 60525

The Union Hall is just west of LaGrange Rd (State Route 12, 20 & 45) on Joliet Road. Very easy to get to and across the street from the William Tell Holiday Inn.

Cost is \$10.00 each for a member and the first guest. Additional guests are \$20.00 each. Admittance covers the meal. Beverages will be available for cash at the bar. To hold your spot please contact Tim Bartel or announce your attendance on our bulletin board by January 18th

If you have GS National Tapes or other media to share please bring as there is AV equipment available at the Hall.

Steve Russo and crew will gathering some great raffle prizes that have become a tradition for our party making this one you should not miss. Be sure to mark this one down on your calendar

Directions from I-55 North or South bound

- Exit LaGrange Road North
- At Joliet Road turn left (west)
- 6240 Joliet Road is about a ¼ mile to the left

If you partake in adult beverages, please arrange a designated driver, or plan on staying across the street at one of these hotels.

Best Western Inn
6251 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
1-708-354-5200

Holiday Inn/William Tell
6201 W. Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-4200

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Please be sure to review our web site for any last minute changes

<http://www.chicagolandbuick.org>

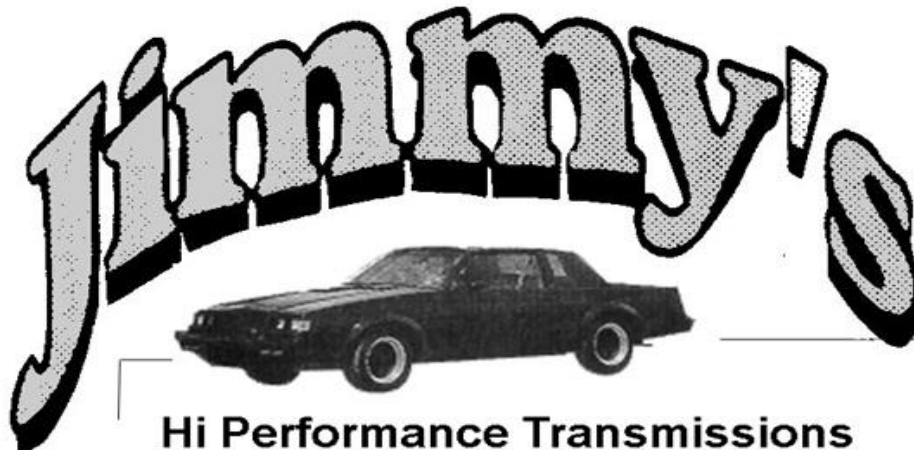
Lost – Union Hall's Phone # is 708-482-8800



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or Melanie at 630-640-8563

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Directions : On Randall Between RT 38 and RT 64. Off I-88, Exit 115 North Orchard Rd. 2.5 mi to Randall, then north 6 mi to fairgrounds.

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Host Hotel - FAIRFIELD INN, St. Charles

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Meeting and Chili Cook Off
Sunday; March 13, 2016; @ 9:00 am
Darien Park District
7301 Fairview Ave.
Darien, IL 60561

Our Chili Cook Off will continue at the Darien Park District as a great place to host this event. Time to show off your chilli. The various entries and variations of chili offered prove excellent to the taste buds. We will be presenting gift certificates to the winners again and of course pass the winner chef hat along to the 1st place winner.

We may have an open session to discuss the future of our chapter. If there are any ideas for guest speakers, please contact Tim.

Please bring a crock pot of your favorite chili or a new experiment to share with the group. You might be surprised how good your chili stacks up to the competition. Many of us like it very hot and others like theirs milder, just like our Buicks.

Am looking forward to the chili. Our regular business meeting will start at 10:00 am before the feeding frenzy. We will be there early so you can get your chili heated.

Darien Park District
7301 Fairview
Darien, IL 60561



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 75th Street (little over a mile)
- Turn left (west) on 75th Street
- Take 75th 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.

For the latest of what the Chapter is doing refer to

<http://www.chicagolandbuick.org>



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Rich Diaz continues to support our Chapter



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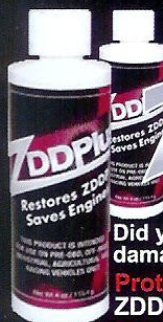
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Cliff Bryant Memorial Dyno Session
Saturday; April 23, 2016; around 10:00 am
 Sound Performance
 554 N York Road
 Bensenville, IL 60101

Another Dyno session at Sound Performance has been established. Turbo Cliff worked out the details with owner Larry Prebis for our first dyno test our cars on his equipment. This will be our sixth year there. Unfortunately members will not be able to drive their own cars on the dyno.

This has turned out to be one of our best attended meets as everyone wants to get out of the house and enjoy some warmer weather and noise from some great running Buicks.

It is time to strut your Buick's stuff or get that tune in before the first race and for the rest of us to get our fix with the demonstration of Buick power.

Cost will be \$60 for 2 dyno pulls taking approximately 30 minutes per car. Please make your reservations on the Chapter Bulletin Board for your reservation.

This should be big fun for our club members. Please bring chairs for the Event, and bring an appetite as will bring food 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>

<https://www.facebook.com/soundperformance>

<http://www.spracingonline.com/>

Call Reid Dawson at 630-893-5002

APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

WEBSITE ADDRESS — [HTTP://WWW.CHICAGOLANDBUIICK.ORG](http://www.chicagolandbuick.org)

Chicagoland Chapter has been a Chapter of the of the Buick Gran Sport Club of America since 1994. **GSCA** promotes Buick performance and preservation of products manufactured by the Buick Motor Division. Our Chapter conducts regular meetings, with technical sessions, promotes car shows, cruises, and drag racing at sanctioned tracks. We share information on national events, technical data and parts sources. Our newsletter "Fast Times" is your ticket to "Going Fast with Class".

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Chicago GSCA #: _____ National GSCA #: _____
(Number is purely optional if you know it) (From the mailing label on your GSXtra)

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip+4: _____ E-Mail: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Cell or Home Phone

Skills: _____

(Automotive related skills or experience that may be shared with other members)

- INTERESTS:** Car Shows Socialize Buick Performance
 Cruises Car Maintenance Technical Sessions
 Drag Racing Area Service Part Recommendations
(Please check interests you may participate in)

Please list your Buick Automobiles and/or Buick powered cars: (Use the back of the form if needed)

Year _____ Model: _____ Engine _____ cu. in. Color: _____

Performance: 1/4 mile 1/8 mile MPH _____ Time _____ 60ft. Time _____

Comments: _____

Year _____ Model: _____ Engine _____ cu. in. Color: _____

Performance: 1/4 mile 1/8 mile MPH _____ Time _____ 60ft. Time _____

Comments: _____

Membership expiration is always on the mailing label of your Fast Times. If due please send application with a check payable to **CCGSCA** and mail to:

Ver 2014.1

Membership Chairman * 4010 Raymond Ave * Brookfield, IL 60513-1846

Dues continue to be **\$20.00**.

We recommend membership in the GSCA.



An affiliate Chapter of GSCA; 625 Pine Point Circle; Valdosta, Georgia 31602