



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

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April 2005

SPRING TUNE-UP - MARCH 19, 2005 Spectra Painting, Bridgeton

It was cold! Quite a few men were lamenting the fact that the ladies were in a warm restaurant while we were stamping our feet trying to keep some blood circulating. But Ed Keil and Dave Smith spread out condiments and grilled burgers and brats despite the chill. And with a good turnout for the year's first event, we quickly consumed the food provided.

There were a few new people to meet: Doug Johnson; Mark Meyers and his 16 year old son; and Rich Horst with Cathleen Carr. Rich has two '55 Buicks but didn't bring them.

Despite the cold, we all were eager to investigate a few of the cars parked out front. Doug Johnson brought his '55 Special two-door hardtop which could easily be the picture in the dictionary under "preservation". This light blue beauty with 43,XXX miles appears to be not only original, but also close

to new condition. Mark Meyers had his '65 Special out where we could all look at it. The "455" on the hood and the serious safety equipment in the interior made it clear this machine was prepared for drag racing. Though I didn't get a look under the hood, I got Mark to confess to some quarter mile runs in the 12's. Paul Meyer had a car parked out front that was new to most of us, a black '35 Buick Model 41 Touring Sedan. Paul doesn't have a complete history of the car, but he says it drives like the 8300 mile odometer reading.

With more than 20 of us gathered around in the garage where Bob Windal was occasionally dropping a wrench or something just to keep us on our toes, we had a BOD meeting. All Board Members were present. We had a great discussion and even came to the point of some decisions and recommendations to the club.



Mark Meyers' '65 Special



Doug Johnson's '55 Special

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 7
April 16

Monthly Meeting at O'Leary's
The Great River Expedition

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As I write this column, the HCCM Easter Show is only a couple of days away and the weather forecast is less than optimal. Hopefully, things will improve in the next couple of days and we'll have a dry and reasonably warm day to enjoy all the great cars at the first old car event of the new season. Hank tells me we have 24 member cars signed up for the club display and three other members having their cars judged. I plan to attend without a car since my Reatta is deemed too new by the HCCM to be on the show field. I guess I should do something about getting my '65 Riv up to show condition!

Bids for the '69 Sportwagon are due by the time of our next meeting at O'Leary's on April 7th. I understand Paul Meyer has received three bids as of March 19th. If you have any desire to own this car, get your bid in by meeting time.

Have you visited the club website recently (www.gatewaybca.org)? Adam Martin has done a great job getting it up and running. If you know of any good sites concerning Buicks that would be of interest to our membership, let Adam know and he can put a link to that site from ours. If you misplace your most current *Gazette* and need to know the date for a club event, go to the calendar on the website.

Thanks to Paul Meyer for allowing us to use his workshop and lift for our annual Spring Tune-Up on Saturday, 19 March. The wind was a bit icy, but Ed Keil and Dave Smith did a great job of procuring and cooking the food so a good time was had by all. We held a meeting of the club's Board of Directors in conjunction with the tune-up, primarily to formulate a recommendation to the club membership concerning any funds that we may have over and above our real needs for the next several years. (See minutes on page 4 and editorial on page 8.)

I hear the ladies had an enjoyable time at their annual luncheon, although the turnout was a little light. We need to find a way to get more spouses/significant others involved next year. Anyone have a classic limo we could use?

As you know, we have elected new officers for the next two years. Hank Deglman is Director, Carl Schmiehausen is Assistant Director, Pete Nathan is Treasurer, and Herb Morris has agreed to serve as Secretary again. The new slate will take over at the May meeting. Pete's election to the Treasurer position leaves open a Board Member-At-Large position to be filled for the remaining time in Pete's term. At the BOD meeting, Bob Brasses and Paul Meyer were nominated for that vacancy and additional nominations will be accepted at our April meeting prior to a secret ballot to elect the replacement board member.

The BOD will be reviewing the club bylaws for any areas which need to be updated. Potential changes which have been mentioned include deleting the need for a quorum to elect new club officers when there is only one nominee for each office and adding another Member-At-Large to the BOD to increase the total number of directors to 9. Input from club members is welcome and the club will vote on any recommended changes.

This will be my last Director's column for the *Gazette*. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as Director. I want to thank all the members for their extraordinary support and cooperation during my tenure. Thanks to all the committee heads and all the members who gave up a lot of time and put in the effort to make our recent Heartland Regional a success. Special thanks to the club officers and other board members who tackled some tough and potentially contentious problems and found solutions acceptable to all. Lastly, I want to again commend John and Chris Waltz for our award-winning *Gazette* newsletter. They have the hardest and most time-consuming jobs in the club.

Hope to see you and your Buicks soon.

Bill

HCCM EASTER SHOW AT FOREST PARK



Mike Marx' 1930 Model 46

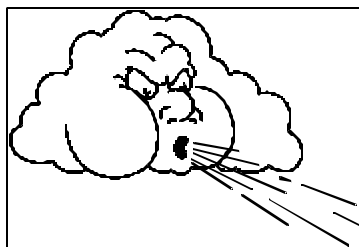
Pete Nathan's 1935 Model 57

Our chapter had 24 signed up for this show, but the weather just wouldn't cooperate. When people were preparing to drive to the show, the streets were wet and the sky was cloudy. Our hardy members made a good showing anyway and we had 16 non-judged Buicks lined up by year, from Mike Marx' '30 Business Coupe to Dave Smith's '73 Electra. Paul Meyer slipped his '42 Olds into that Buick line. Jerry Reid was in the Judged area and his '68 Skylark received a 2nd place award. Steve Dodson had his '57 Mercury in another line.



Mike Driscoll's 1939 4-door

Avis Meyer's 1949 Roadmaster



So, on a cold windy day, people moved through the show field quickly. Some people hunched down in chairs using cars

for a windbreak. Others just retreated to sit in their cars. Hopefully none of our members got sick due to the exposure. We can count this another successful day for our chapter. I believe there were more Buicks on the field than any other make: our 15 and another 5 or 6 scattered around.



Hank Deglman's 1958 Roadmaster & 1962 Electra

Photos contributed by Culus Jones

\$ 15 Membership fees are due May 1st. Use the form on page 9 to update your profile.