



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter
BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA
Volume XXVIII, No. 11 December 2007

John, you'll always be part of us.



John Waltz, friend, Buick Club member and Gazette editor, lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday, November 7, 2007. John was a kind and giving man quick with a kind word and a smile. He could bring the best out of those he came in contact with. He will be missed by all those who had the privilege to know him.

John Remembered

In the past year or so, we'd started having breakfast with John and Chris on occasions when we'd stayed overnight in town.

While we've always been fond of both, it was so endearing to hear John's take on so many things always so devoted to Chris.

Bill's last surgery for his knee replacement was on Tuesday, September 25. We had breakfast with them in Clayton the morning before. I truly felt mixed emotions that morning when I hugged John. He was so fragile in appearance. That was our last time, of course, to share a good time with them. Perhaps we should always approach life with the fragility it holds for us.

When Bill discussed his impending purchase of a sports car with John earlier this year, John corrected Bill on his thinking about which would be the best to consider. Now that Bill continues to enjoy that Mazda MX5 Retractable, he's so grateful for that brilliant advice and couldn't wait to tell John he'd just read (in a doctor's waiting room) that it had been voted Car of the Year in Motor Trend. How appropriate to recall that the recommendation came from our Man of the Year!

Maggi Wester

I will always remember John as a smiling presence at our meetings ready to laugh at our bad jokes or listen to our rambling Buick stories. He was easy to approach, enjoyable to know, reliable in his judgment and always behaved like the gentleman he was.

But what made John Waltz special was this most of us try to bring honor to our club and to our friends through our association with them, even though we don't always succeed John always succeeded.

Avis Meyer

John Waltz was one of the nicest people I've ever met. He was always helpful to new members coming into the club, and always great at photographing and writing about events, both locally and on the road.

Before I owned a computer or was "computer literate", he generously helped me when a couple of profiles were done on my cars and myself. I would forward him typed copy and pixs and he would re-do them by transposing them and re-formatting them into his comp so that they could be published.

He was a caring compassionate individual, a dedicated "car guy", a great person to know and a wonderful partner for Chris.

He will truly be missed.

Jonnie King

My fondest memories of a great friend.

A couple of years ago, when John was, I want to say, "bored," he volunteered to go on one of my forays to check out a car, and maybe even, bring one home. This particular trip was to Martin, Tenn., to see the shop of famed Hot Rod builder, Steve Legen. Just by co-incidence, Steve just happened to be the guy that I sold my second '42 Buick Special convertible to, so the trip was what I would call "worthwhile." On the way down and on the way back, John and I had a lot of time to talk about "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," as they say. We covered about every subject under the sun and that's when I found out that John was definitely a very religious person. I don't believe you will ever find a more devout, dedicated and down-to-earth person. I will forever remember John and be eternally thankful for getting the chance to make his acquaintance. He will be truly missed by me and I know by many others.

Paul Meyer

John Remembered (continued)

John Waltz did a superior job during his 10 years as newsletter editor. When Susan and I went to the BCA National in 2002 at Kokomo, Ind., we went to the drag strip there, and John watched us go down the track. I was in the '68 Electra and Susan was driving her '96 Probe. John got photos of us going down the track, head to head. We did it twice, and John made us enlarged photos which have been a keepsake, especially for Susan.

Ed Lanfer

I first meet John at the Kokomo National. He was there with his beautiful '55 Special. To a great extent, John and his car gave me hope that one day mine would be on the road again. I joined the club shortly thereafter and his friendship will be greatly missed. His warm spirit made any activity enjoyable. Also, John's advice and help will be truly missed. I know doing my monthly message is a bit more nerve-racking without him being there to catch my mistakes.

Bob Brasses



A Note From Chris Waltz

To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.

For your gift of the beautiful plants, your visits and for your expressions of support, thank you. And a special thank to those who were able to bring a car to the funeral. Patm would have loved it!

Chris

Director's Message

Hi All,

Well, December is upon us. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

This past month our family grew by one as my son Sam got married to Laura. The couple unfortunately drives Hondas. I will have to work on that!

I drove my '55 to the wedding and have been asked to chauffeur at one of my son's friend's wedding.

A big thanks you to Adam Martin for filling in for me at the October meeting. And, also a big thank to Mary Anne Meyer for making the arrangements for our December lunch.

The Gazette is truly a team event. Steve Dodson has been helping get the photos and articles together and Sharon Morris has volunteered to check for my many mistakes. All I have to do is to type these few lines, maybe another article and put their efforts together in this format. (continued)

We all need to thank our Holiday Party Committee for their work on the upcoming party in January.

Happy Buicking ...
Bob Brasses, Director
(636) 343-1507
bbrasses@earthlink.net

Gateway Meeting Minutes November 1, 2007

Location: The November 2007 meeting was held on Thursday, November 1, at Home Towne Buffet on St. Charles Rock Road. Roughly, 18 members attended.

The Club meeting was facilitated by Adam Martin, Asst. Director.

Minutes from the September 2007 meeting were accepted as printed in the *Gateway Gazette*.

Pete Nathan was present to give the Treasurer's Report.

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 8 Lunch at Old Spaghetti Factory, 1:00 p.m.
Jan. 6 Holiday Party, Nicolletti's, 4:00 p.m. A deposit of \$5 per person is required. *See Holiday Party Update below.*
Mar. 15 Oil Change
May 30 Tan-Tar-A Oldsmobile Show
June 22 Buick Car Show at Museum of Transportation. The Gateway GS Club will be invited.

Old Business:

\$126 has been collected from belt buckle sales.

Next Regular Meeting:

No regular meeting for December 2007 will be held.

Herb Morris won the 50-50 drawing.

John Lasinski



Spotlight on David Smith



Dave is retired after 20 years with the McDonald-Douglas Corporation working as a space craft engineer. He worked with astronauts in ground support operations (Dave met several astronauts through the years). Before that, he worked 13 years as a radar engineer for the "THOR" missile operations in Kansas City, Mo. He served our country for three years in the U.S. Army as a cook. In addition to all this, somehow he found time to run his own business on the side as a TV repairman for 40 years. In addition to working on his old cars, he enjoys woodworking and making things.

Steve Dodson

Museum of Transportation

For those of you who missed the trip to the warehouse at the Museum of Transportation, you missed a "once in a lifetime event." The warehouse is not generally available and I know many clubs have tried to get access and failed, but we were the lucky ones.

I felt like a kid in a candy store. Everywhere you looked, there was something I had never seen before or something that brought back great memories.

A special thanks to Molly Butterworth of the Museum of Transportation for making the event possible. She not only set up the event, but was an expert guide on all the artifacts in the warehouse.



This month's "Member Spotlight" is on David Smith, who is a seven-year member of the Gateway Buick Club. He's been married for 43 years, has five children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He currently owns a 1930 Ford Model A; a 1959 Ford Galaxie, 2-Dr. Ht.; a 1963 VW Bug (Herbie); a 1967 Ford Mustang; a 1971 VW Bug Convertible; and a 1973 Buick Electra 4-Dr. Ht. Dave is a very active member of our club and enjoys driving his Buick to most local club outings, and when available, he is always willing to volunteer to do the cooking at these events. When asked which was his favorite car EVER, he said his 1930 Ford Model A. When asked why well he has owned it for 22 years and just enjoys driving it the most!

More MOT Photos



The Health Corner

Update:

Pete Nathan is still recovering from his heart by-pass surgery. He is home and doing well and can be seen driving around town. It was good to see Pete at our last two club meetings. Keep up the good recovery Pete!

John Waltz lost his battle with cancer November 7, 2007. The wake was held November 8 at Bopp Chapel. John will be missed. Please keep Chris and their family in your prayers.

Paul Meyer is still battling with his cancer. He spent a week in Houston, Tx., for testing. He is now taking medication to keep his prostate cancer in check. Hang in there Paul!

Dave Smith is doing better, but is still a little weak from his ordeal with his heart. He is getting out and about, just a little slower!

Bill Wester is still recovering from his complete knee replacement surgery several weeks ago. Bill is up and walking with the use of a cane, but said he is still in a lot of pain. Bill is now able to drive and Maggi gets him out of the house as often as she can. Keep working on it Bill!

New:

Walt Crawford had a six-way heart by-pass operation the end of October. He is home and on his way back to better health. Walt has been a member of this club for several years, just not an active member. On September 29, our club did a cruise to the Wild Bird Sanctuary in West County, which Walt is in charge of. Walt was there and gave us a presentation on the facility. I guess we were just too much for him that day! Walt wants to get a little more active in our club. We will be looking forward to seeing you, Walt!

Please to keep all these people in your prayers.

Steve Dodson

Holiday Party Update

SIGN UP NOW!!!

Contact John Lasinski at (636) 225-9850 or
jlasinski@yahoo.com.

Can mail deposits to him at:
440 Avalon View Ct., Fenton, MO 63026

Location of event:
Nicoletti's Steak & Pasta
1366 Big Bend Square Shopping Center
Ballwin, MO 63021
(636) 225-4222

Corner of Big Bend and Old Highway 141

January 6, 2008, at 4:00 p.m.

John Lasinski

December Lunch!

COMMITMENT NEEDED BY DECEMBER 4

Contact Mary Ann Meyer
Phone: (314) 291-6770
Email: vpmeyer@sbcglobal.net

Place: Spaghetti Factory
Time: 2:00 PM
Address: 17384 Chesterfield Airport Road
Chesterfield, MO
Phone: (636) 536-9522

Holiday Lunch! (continued)

If you want to bring unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots, please do so. We will do a group drop off as we have done in the past.

In order to avoid signing a contract and choosing three or four items from the menu due to it being the Christmas Season and as well as a Saturday, I will need to give them a final count on December 5 of those that will be attending.

Spread the word and if you get a definite commitment from anyone, especially if they do not have email, please let me know. Without a positive "yes" commitment, there will be no place reserved.

Mary Ann Meyer

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Paul Horkits

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The *GATEWAY GAZETTE* is a monthly newsletter, free to paid members of the St. Louis Gateway Chapter of the Buick Club of America. Articles, technical information, For Sale and Want Ads, photos, restoration sagas and coming events are welcomed, but must be submitted by the next-to-last Thursday of the month to assure inclusion in the next issue.

Our membership year runs from 5/1 to 4/30. Membership is renewable on 5/1. Members joining between 1/1 and 4/30 are paid up through the next April. Dues are \$15 per year for the local chapter. Contact Pete Nathan, Treasurer. See address below. Current dues for the national club are \$35 per year, payable to: Buick Club of America, P.O. Box 360775, Columbus, OH 43236-0775.

The Gateway Chapter meets monthly on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and guests are welcome to come and see what they are like. During the summer months, June through October, we meet at Chuck-A-Burger drive-in, 9025 St. Charles Rock Road, just west of I-170. During the winter months, November through April, we move indoors to various restaurants around St. Louis.

For more information, our local mailing addresses are as follows:

Director:	Bob Brasses (636) 343-1507	911 Woodway Circle Fenton, MO 63026	bbrasses@earthlink.net
Asst. Director:	Adam Martin (314) 713-1262	1212 Cloverbrook St. Charles, MO 63304	adam@buickpartsdirectory.com
Treasurer:	Pete Nathan (314) 966-0461	#1 Huntleigh Trails Lane St. Louis, MO 63131	phnauto@aol.com
Secretary:	John Lasinski (636) 225-9850	440 Avalon View Ct. Fenton, MO 63026	jlaskinski@yahoo.com

www.gatewaybca.org

Webmaster: Adam Martin

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