



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXVIII, No.1 February 2009

Gateway Chapter Holiday Party

Approximately 35 members attended our January meeting and Holiday Party at Nicoletti's on Sunday, January 4th. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening with good companionship and a good meal. The club treasurer picked up the cost of the meals after a \$5 "copay" per person. In addition, attendance prize tickets were issued and everyone left with at least one prize.

The formal meeting was very short, but included the awarding of the two "hard luck" trophies. The "lucky" winners were Bob Windal and Pete Nathan. Bob was selected because several of his cars, including his BCA Gold-winning '71 GS, got several feet of water in them during the floods caused by the remnants of hurricane Ike. Pete's award came about because his "Sweet 35" street rod had a rear axle detach as he was crossing a busy interstate highway bridge on the way to a Louisville, KY car show. We're happy to report that both can now smile about these events which were serious at the time.

A new award this year, the John Waltz Outstanding Member Award, in memory of our esteemed long-time member and friend, was awarded to Steve Dodson. Congratulations to Steve on this well-deserved award.



Steve Receives the Member of the Year Award



Bob Receives a Hard Luck Trophy

Next Meeting – February 5th
Syberg's Westport, 2430 Old Dorsett Road (At I-270), 7:30 pm

Director's Message

HI All,

Hope those that attended the Holiday party had a good time. I know I did.

I would like to thank all those who have made such an impact on keeping the club running!

Here's a list of those that come to mind while I type this up:

Pete Nathan for keeping the money straight and providing another hard luck trophy winner.

Bill Landers for taking on the newsletter and doing a great job of it and being a help in keeping me and the club on track.

Steve Dodson for being so helpful in setting up car shows and being available for advice and guidance.

Adam Martin for filling in for me when I couldn't make it. When you did fill in, all I heard was how great a job you did. Also thanks for your technical help on ideas and advice on my '70.

John Lasinski for doing a great job on the minutes and other duties

Paul Meyer has always been there to provide advice on how to handle the tough decisions which fortunately are few.

Jeff Watkins for help in keeping the club on track and helping keep me on the ball.

Ed Kiel has been the keeper of the all legal aspects of the club and also has helped with the purchase of food and supplies for many events.

Culus Jones and Dave Smith our chefs extraordinaire.

John Pegg for getting us reduced cost ice for the snowcone machine...

Aaron Ford for providing an impromptu tour of Sainte Genevieve.

And many others! Please excuse me if I forgot any one.

On a personal note, Barb is scheduled for back surgery on January 28th to remove a cyst that is pressing on her sciatic nerve, causing a great deal of pain. The surgery is expected to take 45 minutes to an hour and she will be home the same day.

We have lots of activities coming up so check out the calendar.

See you all at Sybergs on Feb 5th.

Happy Buicking!

Bob

Meeting Minutes, November, 2008

Location: The January 2009 meeting and Holiday Party were held on Sunday, January 4th, at Nicoletti's. We had a good turnout with 35 people attending, including two longtime members, Ted & Helen Becker, attending their first club event.

The Club meeting was facilitated by Bob Brasses, Director.

There were no minutes or Treasurer's Report

Awards:

Hard Luck Award #1 – Bob Windal
Hard Luck Award #2 – Pete Nathan
John Waltz "Member of the Year" Award – Steve Dodson

Free Membership dues:

Paul Meyer
Steve Dotson
Bob Brasses

Next Regular Meeting:

February - Syberg's at Dorsett and I -270, 7:30 pm

50-50 drawing winner, Pete Nathan

More Photos From the Holiday Party



Pete Receives a Hard Luck Award



James and Marcia Bain with Mason



Ted and Helen Becker's First Club Event

Photos From Old Spaghetti Factory



Our Director seems to be Enjoying the Event



Likewise the Meyers



Herb & Sharon Morris

All photos contributed by Steve Dodson.

Notes From Bill Bicknell

Early Skylark story #2

After spending many weekends scouting out junk yards all over California, my next find was a 1953 Skylark near Bakersfield, California. The car had no engine, transmission, hood, wheels and no front brake drums to bolt wheels to. Like my other Skylark finds, it had been sitting outside with the top down for many months, and while fairly complete (except for the above items noted), it was in shambles. But again, the price was right - \$30! (Remember this was 1966, a 13-year old car.)

I went home and borrowed a 2-wheel trailer to retrieve the car, using my 1954 Skylark as the tow car. At the junk yard they used the yard crane to lift the front of the car while I backed the trailer underneath. Somehow we got it on the trailer with no wheels, facing forward (this is significant). As soon as I got out of the yard and headed down the road and reached about 45 MPH, the trailer started to swerve so badly that the trailer was moving from one lane to the other and dragging the back of the 1954 Skylark sideways. What a thrill! So I had to slow down to about 35 MPH on a 4-lane highway.

I realized the problem was one of weight distribution in that it was heavier in the back than in the front because the rear axle was in place, but no engine or transmission for balance. So I just kept driving 35 MPH for a while. Fortunately or unfortunately I had to turn on to a 2-lane road going west through Pacheco Pass, a narrow and winding road with few places to pass. I would pull over every chance I got to let other cars by. Soon I had a highway patrolman behind me with his lights flashing and he pulled me over for obstructing traffic.

I started telling him about the Skylark and how rare it was. He was a good guy and didn't want to give me a ticket and didn't want to let me continue either. I asked him if he could escort me. He didn't want any part of that. Finally I explained the technical problem and asked if he would allow me to continue to the next town where I would stop at the junk yard

and have them turn the car around on the trailer. He agreed. (How's that for salesmanship?)

When I got to the next junk yard, they didn't have a crane large enough to do the job. So I improvised! Realizing that I needed more weight in the front, I purchased three Ford flathead V8's (for \$5 each) and tossed them into the Skylark engine compartment. And when I say tossed, we did. The yard crane could only get the engines to just at the fender level, so we pushed and rolled them until they fell into the engine compartment. (How's that for TLC for a Skylark?)

I stored the car for several months in back of the Service Station where I worked. After a while, my boss got upset and asked me to get rid of it. Having no place to put it, I stripped many of the Skylark-unique parts and then called another local junk yard to come get it. I got \$7.50 scrap value for it. (Not bad for a rust free '53 Skylark, heh?)

Alert From SEMA

The following was provided by Scott Keller:

<http://www.semasan.com/main/main.aspx?id=62498>

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is working to draft a "Cash for Clunkers" bill to have President Elect Obama sign right after he is in office. She somehow thinks this will cure problems with the environment and spur new car purchases.

Naturally, we all know that trying to find parts for older cars relies heavily on other old cars. It is imperative that all in the US voice your opposition to this effort. Read the information above and contact her office. Also, contact the offices of your local federal senators and congress-people to voice your opposition as well. I'm sure we all support the U.S. auto industry, and do NOT feel that destroying the recycled parts available to us is the best way to make it better.

Look up your senators and congress-people at:
<http://www.semasan.com/san/ContactYourLegislator.aspx>

In Sympathy

Condolences to the Carl Schmiehausen family on the recent passing of Carl's mother.

Condolences to the family and friends of long-time member Marv Randolph who passed away on January 22, 2009.

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Paul Horkits

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2009 Calendar

February

5 Regular Monthly Meeting - Sybergs

March

5 Regular Monthly Meeting - Sybergs
? Hooters/Hyman Tour

April

2 Regular Monthly Meeting - Sybergs
3 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church
4 Oil Change/Ladies Luncheon
12 Easter Car Show - Forest Park
26 Beffa's Show

May

2 Sinclair Buick Show
7 Regular Monthly Meeting - Fenton Bar & Grill
8 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church

June

4 Regular Monthly Meeting - Fenton Bar & Grill
5 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church
6 Bobby's Custard Cruise
5-7 Olds Club Tan Tar A Show
28 Museum Of Transportation All-Buick Show
? St. Genevieve Overnight Tour

July

1-5 National Meet - Colorado Springs, CO
3 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church
Regular Monthly Meeting - Fenton Bar & Grill
9
12 Lion's Club Show - McNair Park

August

6 Regular Monthly Meeting - Fenton Bar & Grill
7 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church
BCA Heartland Regional Show, Appleton, WI
?
29 Skyview Drive-Inn

September

3 Regular Monthly Meeting - Fenton Bar & Grill
4 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church
6 Wheels In Motion - Westport Plaza
12 Wagner Buick Show
26,27 Route 66 Festival - Springfield, IL

October

1 Regular Monthly Meeting - ?
2 Fenton Cruise - Life Science Church
4? St. Charles Octoberfest Show

November

5 Regular Monthly Meeting - ?
7 Fall Oil Change

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 May 1 to April 30. Membership is renewable on May 1. Members joining between January 1 and April 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 \$40 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 attend. During the warmer months, May through September, we meet at Fenton Bar & Grill, 701 Rudder Road. During the other months, October through April, we move indoors at 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
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