



# Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

## BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

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May 2005

### THE GREAT RIVER EXPEDITION - APRIL 16, 2005

#### A Tour to Piasa Winery and Beyond

Our 10-car tour started at the St. Louis Mills Mall in northwest St. Louis County shortly after 11AM on a sunny Saturday morning. The group had to make one stop on the way to Illinois to replace a broken fan belt on Pete Nathan's limo. Most of us got back on the road after only a few minutes leaving the repairs in the capable hands of Paul Meyer, Bob Windal and Pete who eventually caught up with us at the winery.

We drove the scenic Great River Road on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River from Alton to Grafton and Piasa Winery. At the winery three more cars joined us we spread out our snacks, selected wines and spent a couple of hours eating, sipping and visiting. At 4PM we restarted the tour continuing up the Great River Road past Pierre Marquette State Park and onto the Brussels Ferry. After the ferry ride across the Illinois River and a short drive up this Illinois peninsula, we arrived at the Wittmond Hotel.

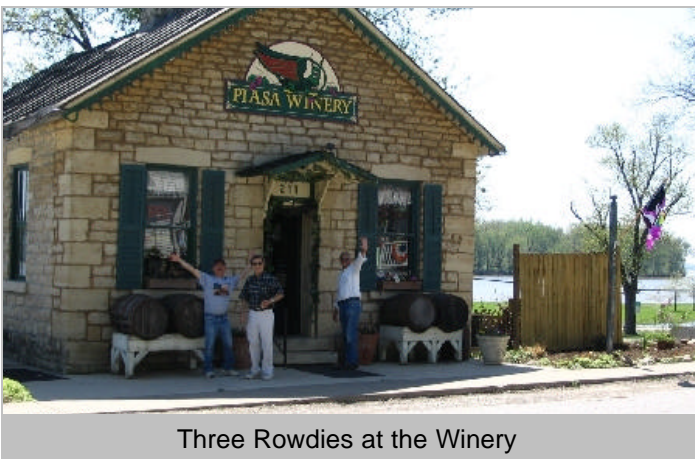
The Wittmond is a 150 year old establishment which started life as a stagecoach stop. They now offer

family style dining and dazzle you with quantity and a few house specialties like homemade sausage. We took advantage of the quantity as well as the special treats.

The next stop just a few miles south was a visit to Bill and Maggie Wester's home. Their view from the ridge is almost entirely forest now, but in the winter with no leaves on the trees they can see down to the river. Maggie gave house tours and Bill kept our thirsts satisfied.

As it began to get dark, we headed toward the Golden Eagle Ferry which took us back into Missouri and a short drive toward St. Charles and then back to St. Louis Mills mall. Another 25 minutes drive and we were home.

For some of us it was a big day for driving our old Buicks. I estimate that we drove an 80 mile loop plus 20+ miles each way from home to the start/finish. And we thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to Pete Nathan and the Westers for organizing this event.



Three Rowdies at the Winery



Line-up in Wester's Driveway

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 7  
May 14

**Picnic & meeting** at Kunz Plantation  
**Display** at Sinclair Buick

# DEGLMAN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

As I start my first message as Director, I wish to offer condolences on behalf of my fellow Buick Club members to Aaron and Rhonda Ford on the passing of their mothers. Our thoughts are with both of you.

After joining the Club in December 1993, I quickly became the Treasurer in April 1994 and I have held that position for 11 years (minus a short 6 month period). During that time, I have served under and learned from 5 excellent Directors: Jeff Watkins, Russ Miller, Paul Meyer, Steve Dodson and Bill Landers. My hope is to serve you as well as they did! On a personal note, I would like to thank Paul Horkits for serving as Assistant Director these last 2 years and to Bill Landers for his 6 years of service (2 years as Assistant Director and 4 years as Director). Special thanks also go to Steve Dodson for his 8 years of dedicated service to our Club (2 years as Assistant Director, 2 years as Director and 4 years on the Board of Directors). I would be remiss if I did not offer particular thanks to Sherry Cox, Sherrie Dodson and Ginny Landers for the support they gave to the men in their lives.

Beside myself, your officers are:

Carl (& Karen) Schmiehausen	Assistant Director
Pete & Wendy) Nathan	Treasurer
Herb (& Sharon) Morris	Secretary
John & Chris Waltz	Editors
Ed (& Nancy) Keil	Board Member At-Large
Bill (& Ginny) Landers	Past Director

We still must replace one and maybe two Board Members At-Large. As a Club, please offer these people a "thank you" when you see them.

## GOALS:

### 1. INCREASE YOUNGER MEMBERS

I would very much appreciate input on this subject from our terrific group of younger members. I want to talk with Amy Kelley & James Bain, Adam Martin, Tim & Frankie Pegg, Melissa Perucca, Jerry & Jodie Reid, David Reed, Daryl & Pamela Sutphen and Lance & Atia Thurman about what they think we need to do, not only to attract younger groups of people, but also to identify some different events we could use to spark some interest. Our Club is very good when it comes to the interacting between all of our age groups; so, once we reel them in, if they participate we keep them around a long time.

### 2. CLUB PARTICIPATION

The good news is we have 80 families in the Club. The bad news is we only have about 25-30 families we see on a regular basis. As a Club we have 13 local events and 11 meetings a year. I know everyone of us leads a hectic life and never seem to have enough hours in a day to accomplish everything we wish to do. But as a dreamer, I would love to see our non-regular members pick 1 or 2 events a year and come join us for a good time. If you're not a monthly-meeting person (more car-talk than meeting), then how about our Dealer Display car shows, Easter Show gathering, Club picnics, trips to the winery, or summer evening drives to Bobby's Custard? Bring the entire family. I guarantee a good time and fantastic people. Your only problem will be trying to find more time for the Club because you will want to come back for more.

### 3. MEMBER INTERACTION

If you're working on your car.....if you're looking for a reputable company to work on your car.....if you're thinking about buying another car.....we have Club members who are only a phone call away. We have engine re-builders, general mechanics, body-men, car painters, upholsterers and experts who will go with you if you're looking to add to your collection. I, for one, use the expertise of my good friend, Bob Windal; I would never leave home without him. I am constantly hearing about people in our club who are having disappointing experiences when it comes to purchasing cars, parts or services. I want to use our network of club "experts" to see that no member has another bad experience. Please call me and I will put you in touch with someone in the club who can help you out.

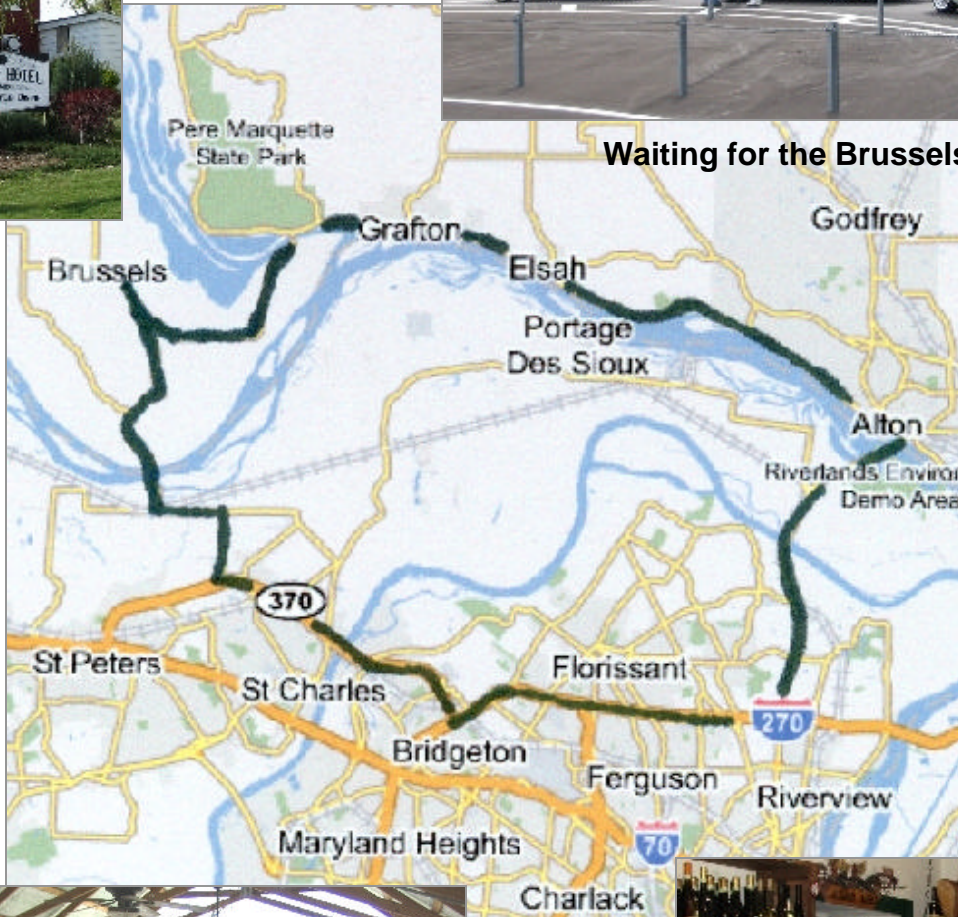
**NEW EVENTS:** I've got some ideas which I will discuss in future messages. For now, check the calendar on page 5 for events that are currently scheduled and pick one or two to attend. Even if you can't stay for the duration of these events, come join us for an hour or two. We would love to see you and your car.

I hope to keep my future messages shorter. (No guarantee!)

**Hank**



# THE GREAT RIVER EXPEDITION - APRIL 16, 2004



Grazing and visiting at the winery

Selecting a wine at Piasa Winery