



# Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

**BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA**

Volume XXVIII, No.9 October 2009

## Member Spotlight by Steve Dodson



### Spotlight on Culus Jones



This month's "Member Spotlight" focuses on Culus Jones. Culus currently owns a 1983 Buick Riviera Convertible, 1962 Chevy Corvair and a 1982 Chevy pickup truck which is his daily driver.

When asked which was his all time favorite car, Culus said it was a 1957 Chevy Corvette which he bought new. He drove it for a year and totaled it when he hit a deer while driving around 70 miles per hour in Green River, WY. There was nothing left of the car!! Culus obviously survived to drive a Buick.

Culus joined the Gateway Chapter in 1983 when he bought a 1969 Electra convertible and has been an active member ever since. He served our club as Secretary for a while.

Culus is retired now and his current hobby is just keeping Culus upright and moving forward. However, years ago Culus was a licensed airplane pilot and had three small aircraft, all at the same time, which he flew for pleasure and business. Culus also enjoys cooking on a smaller scale now, but at one time, he was a chef and part-owner of a local restaurant (The Mainlander, in Clayton).

Culus was also a shop foreman and manager for CF Freight Lines. He kept those 18-wheelers on the road for several years. He's one of the rare breed

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## Upcoming Events

**St. Charles Octoberfest, Sunday, September 27, Bass Pro, 9am**

**Next Meeting and Picnic at the Kunz Plantation, Sunday, October 11**

**Cruise to St. James Winery with AACCA, October 17-18**

**See Inside for Details**

## **Director's Message**

Hi Everyone,

Well, summer is almost over and with fall comes time to visit the Kunz Plantation! This year we will have some special guests: Wing Smith, sales manager, and Rusty Wagner, owner, of Wagner Buick are planning to stop by to meet the members. This may be the last year Wagner will be with Buick and GM, so please try to make it over to the Kunz Plantation. Wagner has been doing a show at their place for many years so it would be a good chance to stop by and say thanks!

The next week we have an overnight trip to Salem and Rolla MO scheduled. We are doing this with the AACA Club. We've had activities with that group in the past and the trip will be a good time. Hard to beat cruising in your Buick and stopping at a winery. See the details for more information! Be sure to mention the AACA and get your room reserved! Let me know after you do.

I have found a place for the November meeting: Ozzie's in Westport. It seems to be a good fit – food is reasonably priced, cars can be seen on the parking lots from the room and undercover parking with an elevator is also available. Hope this is OK with most folks. Let's see if Ozzie's will fit the bill after several attempts.

Check out the South East Regional that Pete Nathan brought up at the last meeting. It sounds like a great time. This region goes touring rather than showing at their regional show. I have gone on several Buick Driving Enthusiasts trips with several of their members. So if you are looking for a good time, this may be it!

We need to make at least one decision at the meeting at the Kunz Plantation: Where and when should we hold the holiday party?

I ALSO NEED NOMINATIONS FOR THE JOHN WALTZ AWARD! Please give it some thought--there are a lot of great members in our club!

Happy Buicking!

***Bob***

## **Meeting Minutes, September 3, 2009**

The September 2009 meeting was held on Thursday, September 3, at Fuddruckers in Sunset Hills. A total of 17 members and one guest, Joe Horvath, attended.

The Club meeting was facilitated by Bob Brasses, Director.

The minutes of the August 2009 meeting were approved as printed in the Gazette.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Pete Nathan and was accepted. There is a balance of \$2,990.20 in the Club's account.

### **September Birthdays**

Ted Becker	Jim Hall
Culus Jones	John Lasinski
Nancy Ingargiola	Pat Peter

### **September Anniversaries**

James & Rosalee Hudson  
Ed & Nancy Keil  
Bruce & Kathy Kunz  
Herb & Sharon Morris

### **Upcoming Events**

See Club Calendar. The cruise to Bill Bicknell's will be included in an overnight trip to St. James, Salem and Rolla with the AACA on October 17 and 18.

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## **October Birthdays**

Bob Brasses	Sherri Dodson
Rich Horst	Kathy Kunz
Helene Mcdonough	Sharon Morris
Wendy Nathan	John Pegg
Susan Roth	Maggi Wester

## **October Anniversaries**

Nick and Amy Eckstein  
Bill and Ginny Landers

### Member Spotlight (cont.)

of mechanics who can diagnose engine troubles by ear. Any trouble – any car!

When asked when he first became interested in old cars, he said it all started 26 years ago when I (Steve Dodson) showed him my first old car ('68 Electra). Shortly thereafter, he bought a 1969 Buick Electra convertible and I asked him to join the Gateway Buick Club. The rest, as they say, is history.

Culus has been married twice and still has a good relationship with his ex's. He has one daughter and

one grandchild. He formerly resided in the historic Soulard neighborhood, a stone's throw from the AB Brewery and the mighty Mississippi. He has lived in many places around the globe and has many tales to tell of his travels.

Culus served our country in the armed forces for 10 years. He joined the Army in 1948. Shortly after the Air Force became a separate branch, Culus moved from the Army to the Air Force serving as a Tech Sergeant. Thanks, Culus, for your service.

### Meeting Minutes, September 3, 2009 (Cont.)

#### **Performance News**

There was nothing new to report at this time.

#### **Modified News**

There was nothing new to report at this time.

#### **New Business**

None.

**50/50** was won by Ginny Landers

### Wheels In Motion Show, September 13

Attendance at this years show was down a little compared to last year according to Elliott Cytron and our club's attendance was also lower than usual. Considering that this is our club's major charitable fundraising event and the weather was perfect, one would expect to see better support. However, those who attended enjoyed a beautiful day and managed to push enough sno cones to provide \$300 to the National Children's Cancer Society.

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*Steve Vander Pluyt*

## Wagner Show, September 12

On a perfect September day, approximately 40 Buicks, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, GMC trucks and at least one Chevy attended what could be Wagner's last show. As most of you know, GMC has said Wagner's franchise will not be renewed for 2010 and forward. Wagner is, of course, contesting this and only time will tell if the decision can be reversed.

It appeared that all attendees enjoyed the day with excellent brats and hot dogs, cold drinks, dash plaques and attendance awards for all. There were a number of very nice cars there with the Pontiacs probably outnumbering the other marques.

Best of luck to Rusty and Wing as they continue to fight to stay in business. I know we all hope to be back for a 2010 show.



Buicks, Pontiacs and Oldsmobiles at Wagner Show



## The Plantation House and Bruce and Kathy Kunz Welcome The Gateway Chapter Buick Club

October 11th

Sunday afternoon picnic and club meeting

The club will provide burgers, brats and sodas. Please bring a side dish: salad, vegetable or dessert. Try to arrive between 11:30 and noon. We will plan to start the buffet at about 12:30.

### Drive Your Buick

The Plantation is just 10 minutes from the arch.

#### BRING A KITE!

There is always a wind blowing on the prairie.

#### VISIT ...

Gateway Classic Cars,  
Cahokia Mounds,  
Horseshoe Lake State Park  
(a nice, short cruise)

## FOR SALE

**'37 Special, model 41, 4-door sedan**, Wellington gray metallic. Dual side mounts, engine and transmission recently rebuilt (4K miles), new clutch, Trippie speed lights. and **'90 Reatta Convertible**, Maui blue with white top, 73,xxx miles. Newer top, 16-way driver's seat, CD player, 392 points at BCA National Meet. Herb Morris, (c) 314-221-8138, [reatta90@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reatta90@sbcglobal.net).

**'58 Special, 4-door sedan**, Mary Kay pink. Inside very good, chrome perfect, #3+ car. \$9,000/OBO. Dick Shearer, 314-434-8822, [shearerpool1@netzero.net](mailto:shearerpool1@netzero.net).



## **St. Charles Oktoberfest, September 27**

We will meet at the Bass Pro parking lot at I-70 and Fifth Street at 9 am and go into the show as a group. This year the show will be held on the parking lot of the Lewis & Clark Boat House adjacent to the river rather than main Street.

## **2009 Calendar**

### **October**

- 2 Fenton Cruise, Life Christian Church
- 11 Regular Meeting and Kunz Plantation Picnic
- 17-18 Cruise with AACA to St. James Winery, etc.

### **November**

- 7 Fall oil change at Paul Meyer's
- 12-14 BCA Southeast Regional, Murfreesboro, TN

### **December**

- ? Luncheon Get-Together

## **October 17th and 18th, 2009 Fall Tour!**

Please join us on an overnight trip to the St. James, Salem and Rolla, MO area.

Meet at the Travel Lodge, 2875 Highway 100, Gray Summit, MO 63089, at 8 am Saturday, October 17. Take exit 253 on I-44 where the Diamonds Restaurant used to be. We will leave no later than 9 am.

We will head down I-44 to the St. James Winery, 540 Sidney Street, St. James, MO 65559. We will have about one hour or less there.

Then we'll be off to Diana's Diner, 103 North Jefferson Street, in St. James for lunch.

After lunch, we move on to the Holiday Inn Express, 12000 S. Main Street, Salem, MO 65560. You will need to call and make a reservation and then contact Bob Brasses so we know who is going. We have a block of 12 rooms with two queen-size beds reserved in case anyone wants to share rooms. The number to call for your reservation is 573-729-4700. The room charge will be \$86 plus tax and includes breakfast.

Mention the AACA TOUR. **Please make your reservations ASAP.**

Then, we will go west on Highway 32 to Lyle Hutchins' home. Lyle and his wife specialize in restoring 1957-59 Ford retractables. They also restore other makes, such as a 1954 Cadillac El Dorado. Lyle says he has several cars completed and others still in progress. They also have interesting automobilia to see. Dinner plans are not set at this time.

Lyle would like us to drive 15 minutes to Montauk, MO, to view his friend's collection and possibly dinner in Montauk. If not, we will have dinner at Stephen's Steak House, #1 South Main Street, Salem, MO ([www.stephenssteakhouse.com](http://www.stephenssteakhouse.com)).

After dinner, we return to the hotel for dominoes and camaraderie. On Sunday morning, we're up early for a hot breakfast (included) and leave the hotel by no later than 9am.

Our first stop is a tour of Classic Auto Works ([www.classicautoworks.us](http://www.classicautoworks.us)) located at 14550 State Route E, Rolla, MO 65401. We will tour their restoration facility and mock western town.

Lunch in Rolla will be at the G&D Steakhouse, 1060 Hwy 63 S. It is like a Ponderosa with a cafeteria-like serving line. They are open on Sundays with lots of parking and easy access.

For those that want to meet us at the restaurant on Sunday, take exit 186 (highway 63) off I-44. The exit opens up into three lanes and you want to turn left from the CENTER lane and stay to the right after making the left turn. (Otherwise you will be stuck in a left turn only lane that takes you into a place that is difficult to return to Highway 63.) Just stay on 63 South and the G&D Steakhouse is about 2 miles on the right side in the corner of a large J C Penny parking lot.

After lunch, we will visit Bill Bicknell's place in Rolla to view his restored 1936 Cord automobile and view his collection of automobilia.

Then, we'll return home as you wish with maybe a stop at Ruby's Ice Cream Stand.



**2009 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL**  
November 12-14, 2009

Murfreesboro, Tennessee is the location for the 2009 Southeast Regional. Murfreesboro is located in middle Tennessee, approximately 30 miles east of Nashville. This is a TOUR, not a car show. The host hotel is the Doubletree Hotel, 1850 Old Fort Parkway, located off I-24 at Exit 78. Phone: (615) 895-5555. A limited block of rooms at a special rate of \$92.00 + Tax(es) have been established for the "Buick Regional". ASK ! This rate will be in effect until October 10, 2009.

**Thursday, November 12**

**Early Arrivals:** A tour to the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville will depart the Doubletree Hotel at 12:00 noon. The driving distance is approximately 28 miles. Lane Motor Museum specializes in European cars. There are approximately 150 on display representing over 45 marques. Admission: \$7.00, Age 65 & over \$5.00. This is an amazing display. You will return at your leisure.

**Friday, November 13**

Early morning departure to Shelbyville, TN for a tour of Garland King's Museum. This is an eclectic accumulation of historic artifacts and memorabilia. There is no charge. Distance is approximately 25 miles. For lunch, we will travel back roads to Bell Buckle, TN. (Approx. 15 miles) We will dine at the Bell Buckle Cafe. Advance cost is \$12.50, (incl. tax and gratuity) per person. You will order a selection of meat and two side items, dessert and drink from their menu.

Following lunch we will travel to Waterfall Farms. Tennessee walking horses are bred and trained at this farm. There is no charge. This is a working farm and the tour is contingent upon their work schedule. After the farm tour, we will return to Murfreesboro.

**Saturday, November 14**

In the A.M. we will tour to the Stones River Battlefield. One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War was fought on this site. There is no charge. Lunch will be at the local Logan's Roadhouse. You will order from the menu and pay individually.

After lunch, we will tour to Smyrna, TN. (Approx. 12 miles) to visit the Sam Davis home and grounds. The cost is \$6.00 per person. As an alternative, attendees may wish to shop at The Avenue Mall.

The evening banquet will be held in Salon A at the Doubletree Hotel. The theme of the buffet is HOUSE OF BLUES. Your choices: Blackened catfish with herb Remo Lade Sauce, "Memphis Style" BBQ slab of ribs, fresh garden salad, southern style potato salad, red beans and rice, fried okra, green beans, cornbread muffins, assorted hot cobbler, and regular/decaf coffee or iced tea. The cost is \$35.00 per person.

**NOTE: The registration form contains web site information for the various destinations of tours.**



## 2009 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL

November 12-14, 2009

Name(s) BCA#

Address City/State & Zip

Phone: Email: Buick Driven:

Registration: .Cars @ \$25.00 ea \$

### Thursday:

Early arrivals: Lane Auto Museum, Nashville  
Adm. \$7.00, Seniors \$5.00. Pay at entrance  
[www.lanemotormuseumTn.org/audio-video](http://www.lanemotormuseumTn.org/audio-video)

### Friday:

Garland Kings Museum \_ @ N/C N/C

[www.imagesbedfordcountv.com](http://www.imagesbedfordcountv.com) (Culture, Fire chief)

Lunch: Bell Buckle Cafe \_ @ \$12.50 ea.

[www.bellbucklechamber.com/history](http://www.bellbucklechamber.com/history) Waterfall Farms

(TN Walking Horse) \_ @ N/C N/C

[www.waterfallfarms.com](http://www.waterfallfarms.com)

### Saturday:

Tour Stones River Battlefield \_ @ N/C N/C

[www.nps.gov/stri](http://www.nps.gov/stri) Lunch: Logans Roadhouse

(Menu, Individual Tab)

Tour Sam Davis Home \_ @ \$ 6.00 ea. \$

[www.samdavishome.org/history.html](http://www.samdavishome.org/history.html) (Alternative:  
Shopping @ The Avenue Mall)

Banquet @ Doubletree Hotel \$ 35.00 ea. \$

Total \$

Registration is requested by October 10, 2009. Checks Payable to: MUSIC CITY CHAPTER BCA. Mail completed registration and checks to: LARRY ARROWOOD, 6300 MURRAY LANE, BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

Host Hotel: The Doubletree Hotel, I-24 & Exit 78, 1850 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN.  
Phone: (615) 895-5555 A limited block of rooms at a special rate of \$92.00 + Tax(es) has been established for the "Buick Regional". ASK ! This rate will be in effect until Oct 10, 2009.

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. We meet at various restaurants around St. Louis and most members and guests try to arrive by 6:30 or earlier to have dinner before the meeting.

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

<b>Director:</b>	Bob Brasses (636) 343-1507	911 Woodway Circle Fenton, MO 63026	bbrasses@earthlink.net
<b>Asst. Director:</b>	Paul Meyer (314) 713-1262	13573 St. Chas. Rock Rd. Bridgeton, MO 63044	vpmeier@sbcglobal.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Pete Nathan (314) 966-0461	#1 Huntleigh Trails Lane St. Louis, MO 63131	phnauto@aol.com
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**Web Site:** [www.gatewaybca.org](http://www.gatewaybca.org)  
**Webmaster:** Adam Martin

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2564 Shorewood Drive  
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