



Gateway Gazette

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Louis Chapter

BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Volume XXX1, No.9

October 2012

Recent Events

Meeting/Pot Luck at the Palumbo's

Our September meeting was combined with a pot luck on Sunday, September 23, at Chet and Jeanne's beautiful home near New Melle. Mother Nature cooperated beautifully and provided a sunny fall day.

The Palumbo's provided brisket for sandwiches and attendees brought all manner of side dishes and desserts. The food was outstanding and most of it was consumed by an above average turnout.

We toured Chet's garage again and got the latest on why his street rod still isn't finished. It looks like he is doing a great job and it will be a great car when finished.

Many thanks to Chet and Jeanne for an enjoyable day.

Fall Oil Change

The morning started a bit on the cold side but the temperature warmed as the day progressed. However, no club members took advantage of the opportunity to put their car on a lift and perform needed maintenance. A total of 7 members attended, with a maximum of 6 at any one time. Two of Paul's grandsons and their friend were also in attendance.

It appears the fall oil change no longer justifies the expense for the food and Paul and Ed's time to prepare for and clean up after the event. Perhaps most members are too busy with other activities and events in October, although attendance has been much better in past years?

Other than talking old cars and eating the burgers, brat and brownies, the major activity this fall was working on the go-cart Paul bought for his grandsons. (See pictures on page 7.)

Upcoming Events

Regular Monthly Meeting, Monday, October 15, 7:30 pm, at Sports Café

Fall Color Tour and Lunch at Big Chief, Saturday, October 20, 11 am

Spooktacular Garage Tour with Olds Club, Saturday, October 27, 10 am

See Page 3 for details

Director's Letter

Fall is finally upon us and the brutal heat of this past summer is a distant memory. A big thanks to Chet & Jeannie Palumbo for hosting the last club meeting and potluck dinner at their beautiful home out in New Melle. We had a great time and the food was delicious. Turnout was good and the weather was perfect for sitting outside and enjoying the company of good friends. I would like to officially welcome our newest member, Kristina Richards and her daughter Candice. Kristina owns a very nice 1986 Grand National, is a veteran of several Hot Rod Power Tours and is also a member of the Buick Performance Enthusiasts Club. She has also offered to be our Activities Director, so please give her some ideas of what you would like to see, do and participate in.

Speaking of activities, we have a few good ones in the month of October. October 6th is our annual Fall Oil Change at Paul Meyer's garage, October 20th is the always fun Fall Color Tour and lunch at Big Chief Dakota, and October 27th is the Oldsmobile Club Spooktacular Garage Tour in Dupu, Illinois. Let's get those cars out and enjoy them before it is time to put them away for the winter. Also, our next monthly meeting is October 15th at The Sports Café, 7:30. Come early for dinner and to mingle with your friends.

Hope to see you there,

John

Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2012

The September, 2012 meeting was held on Sunday, September 23rd, at Chet and Jeanne Palumbo's

home near New Melle.

The Club meeting was facilitated by John Lasinski, Director, with 29 members and guests in attendance.

John opened the meeting with an introduction of members, and introduced new member Christina Richards and her guests Paul, and daughter Candice. Chet's neighbors Scott and Pam Alexander were also present.

John also thanked all club members for their contributions and help in making the 2012 Heartland Regional Meet a success.

The minutes of the August, 2012 meeting were approved as printed in the Gazette.

September Birthdays: See Gazette

September Anniversaries: See Gazette

Members III: None reported.

Treasurer's Report:

- Pete was not available for a financial report, but John reported that we are still trying to pull together all the expenses from the Regional Event, and if anyone had receipts that needed to be turned in to get them to Pete as soon as you can.

Performance Division: Christina Richards reported that they only had two entries that took advantage of the Dyno at PUR Performance, last month.

Modified News: No updates

National News: No updates

Continued on page 4

October Birthdays

Bob Brasses

Joe Horvath III

Wendy Nathan

Jenna Smyth

Sherri Dodson

Helene McDonough

John Pegg

Maggi Wester

Rich Horst

Sharon Morris

Susan Roth

October Anniversaries

Marty & Judy Hughes

Bill & Ginny Landers

2012 CLUB CALENDAR

October

- 15 Regular Monthly Meeting - Sports Café
- 20 Fall Color Tour
- 27 Garage Tour with the Olds Club

November

- 3 Visit Schlafly microbrewery for a tour and lunch
- 19 Regular Monthly Meeting - ??

December

- 1 Lunch, Meeting, Toys for Tots at Old Spaghetti Factory

January 2013

- ?? Holiday Party ??

Upcoming Events

Regular Monthly Meeting Monday, October 15, 7:30 pm at **Sports Café**, 3579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, MO 63044. To reach the Sports Café, take I-70 or I-270 to West on St. Charles Rock Road at I-270. After one block, turn left at the traffic light onto Boenker Rd., then after one block turn left onto Pennridge Dr. The restaurant is on the right. Plan to arrive by 6:30 and enjoy dinner prior to the 7:30 meeting.

Fall Color Tour. Saturday October 20, meet at the Museum of Transport, 3015 Barrett Station Road, upper parking lot at 11:00 am. Take I-270 to west on Dougherty Ferry Road, then follow Dougherty Ferry for about 1 mile to a left onto Barrett Station. After about 0.7 miles, the Museum will be on the right. Lunch at Big Chief Dakota Grill in Pond, MO.

Spooktacular Garage Tour. Saturday October 27, at the invitation of the Archway Oldsmobile Club. Meet at I-255 and Koch Road at 10:00 am to convoy to Bob and Kevin Huff's collection in Dupo, IL. The Vintage Chevy Club has also been invited. Please bring a side dish or appetizer to share along with your old car, favorite beverage and lawn chairs. The Olds club will provide brats, hot dogs and a porta-potty.

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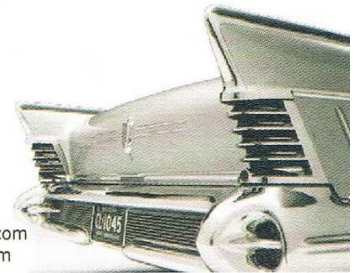
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Minutes of the September 23 Meeting Cont')

Upcoming Events:

- October 6th, Fall Oil Change at Paul Meyer's Shop
- October 6th – Ladies Luncheon – Cancelled
- October 15 – Monthly Meeting
- October 20th – Fall Color Tour
- October 27th – Garage Tour with Oldsmobile Club – Gene Bossaller
- November 3rd - Schlafly Tour - ???
- November 19th - Monthly Meeting
- December 1st – Toys for Tots/ Old Spaghetti Factory - Lunch

Old Business:

None reported.

New Business:

January Holiday Party – John is looking for ideas and a suggestion for a location.

2012 Heartland Regional Event:

- We are still waiting on a final bill from The Hilton, after that is received we will meet with The Holiday Inn to discuss reimbursement for cancelling our event.
- Bill Landers has extra Event Books, please see him if you are interested in one.

- Bill Landers said that he received several emails thanking us for hosting the Heartland Regional, plus he shared the following note he received from Jeff Knapp, Kearney, Nebraska:

Dear Bill; A big thanks to you and all the members of your BCA Club that hosted the Heartland Regional meet this weekend in St. Louis. Everyone involved was friendly and helpful. I enjoyed the hospitality room, the swap meet vendors and the awards banquet. I know it takes lots of planning and hours to put one of these meets together. Thanks again for hosting a very enjoyable meet.

*All the best, Jeff Knapp, BCA 31500
1968 Electra 225 Convert.*

- The Chicagoland Chapter is planning a Pre-Nationals Tour for the 2013 Regional Event.
- Paul Meyer is looking for a place to store the Regional trailer, it should go to the Chicagoland Chapter, but they will not need it for the 2013 event.

50/50 drawing: None

Next Regular Meeting:

October 15th, 2012, location needed; Christina Richards and Paul will see if the Sports Café in Bridgeton is available.

FOR SALE

1989 Lincoln Mark VII LSC. Midnight blue, accident-free, always garaged, well-maintained with 88K. Professionally repainted by White Auto Body. Has Dynamax exhaust system, Alpine stereo, Pirelli tires have 20K. A fine example of old-time Ford craftsmanship in the 80's with flawless performance. \$5300 or best offer to a caring new owner. Monica Ledwon mwledwon@gmail.com or 314-878-3935.

1988 Reatta. Black, 124K original miles, no rust showing, paint problem on trunk lid. Major systems all work, but antilock brake warning comes on after 50 or 100 miles—it is said a new accumulator is needed. Interior clean, but not perfect, shows some wear. Regular oil changes. Recently moved to Arizona and want to sell. Asking \$1200. Call Bill McCracken, 314-566-5556.



BUICK, Model B, 1904

Floyd Clymer with the scrapbooks that have won him a reputation as an authority on automotive history.



By BETH KEELER

FLOYD CLYMER, of Los Angeles, is a happy man. He is the chief consultant and friend-in-need for more than 75,000 rabid automobile fans who look to him as the outstanding authority on everything that concerns automotive history.

He learned to drive a horseless carriage at seven, and at eleven was Colorado's most enthusiastic automobile salesman. In 1907-1908, he sold twenty-six cars at Berthoud, Colorado. He also developed a hobby of collecting all and any data on the origin and beginnings of motors and motorcars, until today his name is synonymous with that nostalgic era when goggles and dusters were the chic thing to wear.

It wasn't until 1943 that he decided to put his thousands of illustrations and clippings in book form. He published his first motor scrapbook, which was such a sensation that he immediately issued two more scrapbooks to satisfy the demand, and now has a total of five.

His motor parts and accessory business soon became a by-line, and he gained the title of one of the most unusual men in the publishing business. He writes, publishes, and sells his books, and there seems no limit to the potential buyers, for two out of every five

orders he receives nowadays are from new customers.

His publishing house, located in a modest business section of Los Angeles, has expanded to the point that it keeps several assistants busy just filling orders.

Clymer's list of customers is a cross section of America. Automobile and advertising executives, educators, editors, and young boys in the first flush of automotive enthusiasm write to him regularly.

The movie studios have checked authenticity of their period pictures through his files. A letter such as the one received from an oriental ruler, recently, is only a tiny part of the incredible stack of mail he receives daily. The oriental rajah was inquiring about Clymer's books, but he also wrote a long, detailed description of his Buick's wonderful performance over the rough, dusty roads of India.

Eighty per cent of his business is obtained by mail. Recent orders have come from Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and India in increasing volume.

Clymer has mailed so many of his books overseas now that he humorously remarks that when they finally penetrate into the darkest part of darkest Africa they will probably find one of his scrapbooks.

Chronicler

Floyd Clymer has become an authority on

While some of his customers specialize on different phases of the early automobile era, Clymer finds that more often than not most of them want to know everything possible pertaining to it. It is an unending field of research, for Clymer estimates that in the past fifty years approximately 3,200 different makes of automobiles have been manufactured in the United States. One hundred and twenty-five of these were steamers, approximately 100 were lightweight cyclecars, and another 100 were electric.

Clymer's scrapbooks show up some of the eccentric first inventions. There was the Rover "Octo-auto," which featured eight wheels, and gave eight times as much service, the makers claimed.

The Carter, another vehicle, had two engines mounted under its hood. If one quit, the other took over. He has a set of laws issued by the Farmer's Anti-Automobile Society of Pennsylvania in 1904:

"Automobiles traveling on country roads at night must send up a rocket every mile and then wait ten minutes for the road to clear. The driver may then proceed."

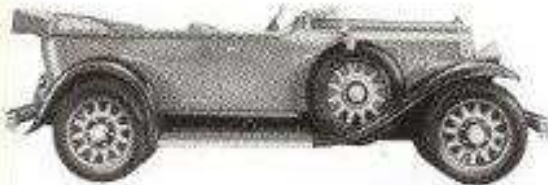
The Haynes car advertised "No Noisy Noises." The Sears-Roebuck special of 1910 was guaranteed at prices beginning at \$375. Early cars carried such classic names as



BUICK, Model 17, 1909



BUICK, Model 45, 1919



BUICK, Model 25, 1929



BUICK, Model 61, 1939

of Cars

automobile history

"Auto-Bug," "Black Crow," "Blood," "Darling," "Eagle," "Foss," "Duck," "Kink," "Leach," "Moon," "Sun," "Star," "Red Bug," "Ricketta," "Rush," "Vim," "Viking," "Zip." The list is almost unending.

In addition to his five scrapbooks, he now publishes an independent test report and investigation of each of the new automobiles. He compiles a yearly manual of the Indianapolis Speed Classic. His latest publication tells of the history of steam-traction engines, and traces the progress of steam-driven motors from the time of Nero (130 B.C.) down to the present.

It was only in 1896 that a gasoline engine manufacturer named Charles B. King cranked up his homemade horseless carriage and started his home town of Detroit off on a new industry. The progress and the painful and oftentimes hilarious growing pains of today's tremendous automotive business can easily be reviewed in Clymer's unique historical collection.

"I still look forward to each new model as I did when I was a kid," reports Clymer. "The Reos and the Maxwells were just as beautiful when I was eleven as the 1949 models are to me today. And as long as they keep putting out new models I'll have more pictures to collect and publish."



NEW BUICK SPECIAL

The Rajah Writes:

In the voluminous correspondence of Mr. Floyd Clymer, subject of this article, is a letter from Rajah Bir Udit Pratap Sahasr Das, ruler of the Gangpur State, in India, which contains an interesting reference to his Buick. The rajah says:

"We have various American and English cars in our garage. . . . Our most recent purchase is a Buick 51 Sedan. . . . Among the cars. . . I have never been more satisfied than I have been with our Buick.

"You are probably aware that the average country roads out here are far from good. On one run on these roads I made ninety-six miles in just two hours. Of course, this would appear very paltry in comparison to your findings, but with due respect I can assure that if you travelled on these roads, what with the dust and ruts and what with the strings of bullock carts, you would, I am sure, consider this timing as quite favorable. Not only did I find that the car behaved beautifully on the road, but also it was very restful driving it. . . .

"The Buick, in my opinion, is a 'Super' car and certainly lives up to its name."



From Jeff Watkins post card collection.

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 first Monday 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 \$50 per year, payable to: Buick Club of America, P.O. Box 360775, Columbus, OH 43236-0775.

The Gateway Chapter meets monthly on the THIRD MONDAY 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:

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