



# The Porthole



September/October 2015

## Newsletter of the Mason-Dixon Chapter of the BCA

### UPCOMING EVENTS -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mason-Dixon chapter items are in red

### 2015

**Saturday September 19** – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Neffsville Car Show sponsored by Rotary Club of Lancaster Northeast. 500 cars expected. Location is Manheim Township Community Park. Show is held 9 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. \$15.00 pre-registration; \$20.00 day of show registration; your registration fee includes lunch. For information, call 717-538-3188 or e-mail to [Neffscarshow@gmail.com](mailto:Neffscarshow@gmail.com). Website is [www.NeffsvilleCarShow.com](http://www.NeffsvilleCarShow.com).

**Sunday September 20** – Hagley Museum Car Show, sponsored by Historic Car Club of Pennsylvania. Show hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. More than 500 antique cars expected, from the early 1900s to the 1980s. This year's theme is "Fins, Chrome, and the Rocket Age."

**Thursday September 24** – Tom Mack auction, Charlotte NC

**Thursday September 24 - Sunday September 27** - Charlotte Fall Autofair

**Sunday September 27 - Mason-Dixon Chapter BCA Membership Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Hoss's Restaurant, off U.S. 30 and PA 74 in West York.** Come for dinner first, followed by membership meeting.

**Wednesday September 30 - Sunday October 4-** Carlisle Fall Meet

**Wednesday October 8 - Saturday October 11 – HERSHEY – AACA Eastern Fall Meet**

**Sunday October 18** – Delaware County Community College show, sponsored by Historic Car Club of Pennsylvania

**Sunday November 22 - Mason-Dixon Chapter BCA Membership Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Hoss's Restaurant, 61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA.** Come for dinner first, followed by membership meeting. (Restaurant is located near PA Turnpike Exit 236, near Country Market Nursery. Restaurant phone number is 717-697-2214.)

**Thursday November 26 - Frostbite Run**, sponsored by the Historic Car Club of Pennsylvania – on the grounds of the Massey House in Broomall, PA. A Thanksgiving morning tradition.

## **2016**

**April 7-10 - Charlotte Autofair**

**July 27-30 - 2016 BCA National Meet in Allentown, PA, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BCA.**  
**(Information below provided by BCA.)**

Numerous tours and activities are planned, and a “cruise-in”. Three all-day tours are offered each day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 27-29. Travel buses and a catered lunch are provided on all three tours. Tour destinations will include AACA Museum, America on Wheels, C.F. Martin Guitar Co., Historic Bethlehem, Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, and Simeone Foundation Auto Museum, among others.

On Saturday, July 30, there will be a morning-only tour. Lunch is on your own at the Farmers Market in downtown Allentown. This shorter tour day allows members time in the afternoon to enjoy the beautiful Buicks on display at the Bulgari Compound.

All tours and the Thursday “cruise-in” are subject to availability and first-come, first served basis. Registration forms are available at [www.buickclub.org](http://www.buickclub.org) and on the Bugle mail wrap. Register early to secure your place.

The Buick Heritage Alliance Gala dinner will be held on Friday July 29, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Center/Lehigh Valley. Admission \$50 per person. The Buick Heritage Alliance (BHA) promotes historical research and the dissemination of information concerning the origin and development of the Buick automobile and the individuals who contributed to it. Register to attend the BHA Gala and help support this nonprofit organization with a fun night of dinner, awards and entertainment. The Friday evening schedule is as follows:

2016, continued

6:00 pm-10:00 pm Cash Bar

6:00 pm-9:00 pm Silent Action

6:30 pm-7:30 pm Dinner (your choice of beef, chicken or fish)

7:30 pm-8:00 pm Awards Program

8:00 pm-10:00 pm Entertainment

On Saturday, July 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., there will be a showing of Beautiful Buicks on the Bulgari Compound -- Free for BCA Members.

BCA members will be the invited guests of Nicola Bulgari for a special day of viewing both his collection of cars and our own Beautiful BCA Buicks. There will be no formal BCA judging, but there will be informal judging to pick “Best of Show” by decades, as well as other awards. The awards will be presented at the BCA Celebration Banquet held on Saturday night.

The BCA 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet will be held Saturday, July 30, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., at the Agri-Plex at Allentown Fairgrounds. Cost, \$35 per person.

6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Social Time (cash bar)

6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Dinner and Special Awards

The Host Hotel will be the 4-star Renaissance Hotel located in downtown Allentown. It opened its doors in January 2015. The hotel surrounds the facade of the historic art deco Dime Savings and Trust building (circa 1921), which now serves as the hotel's entrance and lobby. With locally inspired artwork throughout, the hotel is home to the Dime Restaurant and Bar, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. For reduced group rates, be sure to mention you are with the BCA when you make your reservation. Here is the contact information:

Renaissance Allentown Hotel  
12 North Seventh Street  
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101  
484-273-4000  
[www.renaissanceallentown.com](http://www.renaissanceallentown.com)

Our host for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, Mr. Nicola Bulgari, has been a BCA member since 1966 (BCA member #178). Although his primary home is in Italy, Mr. Bulgari has assembled one of the world's largest collections of antique and vintage automobiles in Allentown, PA. BCA members will be invited guests to Mr. Bulgari's compound in celebration of the Club's 50th anniversary.

Mr. Bulgari has been an avid Buick fan since his early childhood in Europe. The monetary value of a car does not determine what he chooses to collect or restore, and each vehicle is significant in its own way. We thank Mr. Bulgari for his hospitality, generosity, and the support he has provided to the Buick Club of America, the Alfred P. Sloan Museum and the Buick Gallery in Flint, Michigan.

In Mr. Bulgari's own words --

*I fell in love with the Buicks. To me they were a symbol of America. They had glamorous styling, personality, power and responsiveness. They are luxurious without being ostentatious and offer the quality normally associated with far more expensive import cars.*

**The origins of the Buick Club of America:** In early 1966, a Buick lover named Greg Fallowfield, later shortened to Greg Field, was a member of the Pittsburgh based Buick Car Club of America (BCCA). Greg wanted to start a Chapter of the BCCA in California, but was not getting much cooperation from the head of the club. This led to Greg's sitting down with five other Buick lovers in Southern California to discuss forming a Buick Club of California. They put together a one-page newsletter called the Buick Bugle, and on April 10, 1966, began distributing it to other persons interested in Buicks. By the second meeting on May 8, 1966, Greg had a total of 17 members, counting himself. The group was working towards a car show to be held in September, and used that to attract new members.

Word got out to Buick lovers in adjoining states, and more members became part of Greg's small organization. At the third meeting in June, Greg renamed the group the Buick Club of America, and so began what we all enjoy today.

That first BCA car show held in the Los Angeles area evolved into an annual event, but was promoted only as the Los Angeles Chapter Show and swap meet. It took the leadership of Terry Dunham (BCA #217), who was known and loved by all who met him, to begin planning and organizing the first BCA National Meet.

With cooperation from the Public Relations Department at Buick Motor Division, Terry and a group of volunteers planned the first BCA National Meet in Flint, Michigan, where the Buick automobile began. A notice appeared in the February 1971 Buick Bugle, announcing that the BCA National Meet would be held August 7-8, 1971. The show was a resounding success, with 115 Buicks on display and over 5,000 people attending. Terry Dunham and Larry Gustin later co-wrote the highly respected book, *The Buick: A Complete History*.

BCA's membership went on to a peak of approximately 9,800 members by the 100th Anniversary of the Buick automobile in 2003, and currently stands at about 7,200 members. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Buick Club of America, we acknowledge and thank those early members who committed their time, energy and funds to make BCA the success it has become.

*Support your Buick Club events! There are many car shows, but no others that focus specifically on our favorite marque.*

**ENJOY YOUR OLD BUICK BY PARTICIPATING IN MASON-DIXON CHAPTER-  
AND BCA ACTIVITIES. BE SURE TO CHECK THE LATEST "BUICK BUGLE"  
FOR MORE REGIONAL & NATIONAL EVENTS.**

Thanks to Richard Sills for compiling our events calendar

**Please Note**....if you'd like to submit any information, articles, cars for sale...whatever...contact news-letter editor John Hess at (717) 757-7666 or via email at: [hocusfocus@verizon.net](mailto:hocusfocus@verizon.net) or via snail mail at 1285 Christensen Rd., York, Pa. 17402.

## Directors Message:

Well the summer is nearly at the end and we have not had the Buicks out much. We do get the 1925 to do a trip to church every week. By the time you receive this hopefully Joan and I will be on the road WITH THE 1937 to a tour of Nashville TN. We will be attending the 1936-1938 Buick group Tour from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. I have spent the summer redoing the cooling system on the 37. (Another reason not many Buick miles have been traveled). This includes a re-cored radiator and another block flush. While things were out I touched up some items and re-did manifold gaskets. Now things run COOL



and QUIET !



After our return from the Nationals I was sorry to have to cancel our July membership meeting but it seemed that all the officers except 2 of us were away that weekend. So we will pick up again on Sept, 27<sup>th</sup> at York. Start thinking up activities. One of the items on the agenda will be finding a new car show chairperson for next year. Please consider serving the club in this capacity.

As to the 2016 Celebration in Allentown I know there is still much confusion as to reservations activities, responsibilities etc. Watch the Bugle for updates. When at Springfield I asked for the minutes of our planning meeting. After repeated attempts and involving many BCA personnel I received them late in July as I wanted to share them with the chapter for the July meeting. I will review at the September meeting or if interested I can send to interested members. Also in concert with the Allentown meet. Joan and I, while visiting our daughter in Conn. set up a meeting with BCA member John Sheib from Hartford. Our purpose was for a planning session of the pre-war after tour.

Check out our web-site as Chuck has made some changes. I have also included a survey report from the BCA for your information. Of course all submissions from the membership are welcomed.

Happy Motoring!  
Larry

### *To our Membership:*

If you have not done so lately, please check out our web site to see what is new. Chuck Hoffman, our website manager, has added a new menu bar "**NEWS AND INFORMATION**". This was for the Freysinger Show results. Also at the bottom of the page Chuck has included a leave a reply section. Try it out!

As to the "**MEMBERS CARS**" menu bar. If you look what is there it is what was initially sent to me. I know we have more members with more car pictures. Please submit them to me or Chuck.

Larry

# *why I am a Buick guy*

## My 53 Buick Woodie

Out of all our collection of cars, my favorite overall is probably my 1953 Buick Super, Model 59 Estate Wagon, which is pictured on our Chapter Website. I have owned this car since the fall of 1982. I attended my first 53-54 Skylark meet in Seven Springs, PA in the spring of 1982 when the club was in it's infancy and met a couple from Parker, CO there. We became fast friends and I mentioned I was looking for a 53 Buick Woodie to add to my garage. My friend, Bruce Montgomery, told me of a Woodie that might be for sale in his area and persuaded me to come to Colorado to visit him and inspect the car. In the Sept 1982, I did just that, traveling there in my motorhome with my ex-wife and her parents to see this car, as well as to visit Mt.Rushmore and Yellowstone along the way.

We arrived in Colorado on a Wednesday, visited with Bruce and his wife, Kathy for a few days and I then asked Bruce if this car indeed existed, since I'd not yet seen it. I told him we needed to set out for home the next day or so and I went that evening to see the car. I knew as soon as I laid eyes on it that if it was indeed for sale, I was going to buy it. The car was a one owner with 33,000 miles on the odometer and had transported the owner and his two siblings to and from college. His Mom had passed and he was only using the car to transport garbage bags to the landfill. The tailgate was lowered to hold the trash bags in his carport. The college window decals are still displayed to this day on the windows of my woodie as I consider that part of the history of this car. We agreed on a price and I became the proud owner of this entirely original Woodie.

The tires were a mix of old replaced and original tires that came with the car. The battery was dead and the rubber radiator hoses and other components were suspect. I asked Bruce if it could reside in his barn until spring and I would come back with a trailer to get it. My Father-in-law said "why not just drive it home"? I replied that it would never make it in this condition. He responded that we were there, I had a driver and if we only got halfway home, we would only have to come halfway to Colorado to get it. This made sense to me, so the following morning, we changed the oil, lubed the car, installed a new battery and set out for Maryland. I loosened the radiator pressure cap so that it did not put too much pressure on the old hoses. We blew out one of the tires near Springfield OH on the way home and put on the original US Royal spare and made it home to Frederick, MD on that. The only other problem we encountered was the emergency brake cable locked up on I-68 just north of Cumberland, MD. I called my Father-in-Law on the CB and told him to pull over that I saw smoke. I crawled under the car, unhooked the brake cable and we got home with no other incidents. We averaged 19.5 mpg on the whole trip home on regular gas and the car drove beautifully.

This car has been on about a dozen National Woodie Club Tours since then and has been to 3 BCA National Meets. Except for new carpet and a repaint in 1991 in it's original Matador Red color, this car remains in entirely original condition. I did install a set of Skylark Wire Wheels which are a correct option on this car. Otherwise it is as it came from Flint in 1953. It is powered by a 322 CI nailhead V/8, 162 HP and 2bbl carb and power steering, coupled with a twin turbine Dynaflow Transmission. There were 1,836 of the Super Woodies manufactured in 53 and something over 500 Roadmasters. Only about 50-75 of them have survived, due mostly to the cost of upkeep from regular driving and wood rot. It is a wonderful road car and now shows just under 67,000 miles on the Odometer. The motor and transmission have never been out of the car and I'm not afraid to drive it anywhere. It's the reason I joined the National Woodie Club in 1982 and was able to serve as their National President for 2 years.

It's also been in several weddings and, to me, is a member of the family and a keeper for life. It was also part of the Woodie Exhibit a few years ago at the AACA Museum, displayed there for several months.



Old cars like this have a history and a special place in the hearts of the owners. We are only caretakers for these rolling works of art and I'll cherish this car as long as I am alive.

Dick Beckley

*Sympathies* Dear Friends,

I regret to advise you of the passing of Hank Reus, Sr. He slipped away peacefully, early Wednesday evening September 2nd. To the best of my knowledge did not suffer. It's comforting to know my father lived his last days on his terms. Just last weekend we spent Saturday afternoon together working on his latest acquisition, a fine 1947 Ford.

On behalf of our family, I would thank you kindly for the wonderful times and friendship you shared with my dad. A Celebration of Life will be held 10 AM Saturday October 3rd at the Mitchell Wiedefeld Funeral Home located at 6500 York Road (at Overbrook Road). In lieu of flowers memorials to the American Diabetes Association or the Baltimore County Humane Society are welcome.

Sincerely,  
Hank Jr

*Hank Sr. was a friend, a great ambassador for old Buicks and old cars in general and will be missed by the old car community*

*Dick Beckley*

## It's Time to Register for the 2016 BCA National Meet – July 27-30 in Allentown, PA

We are fortunate to have next year's BCA National Meet very close to home. This meet, celebrating the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, is expected to be one of the largest turnouts ever of Buick cars and enthusiasts.

It's now time to register, and to reserve your hotel rooms. Full information is now available on the BCA website, including registration forms, tour reservations, hotel information, and an aerial view of Nicola Bulgari's "Celebration of the American Motorcar Complex", which we will be invited to tour. Registration can be accomplished on-line with a credit card, or by printing out the form and mailing it. Hotels are now accepting reservations.

There will be tours to appeal to everyone in the family. They will include Lehigh Valley covered bridge tours; visits to the AACA Museum and Library in Hershey; tours to Philadelphia including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum; a visit to America on Wheels, a great automotive museum in Allentown; a visit to the C.F. Martin Guitar Company; an historic Bethlehem tour; visits to Dorney Amusement Park and Wildwater Kingdom; and a visit to the Clover Hill Vineyards and Winery, Josh Early Candies and the Allentown Farmer's Market. And, for those who want to tour on their own, other local attractions include the Mack Truck Historical Museum, celebrating the history of the trucks with the famous bulldog mascot, and the Coca-Cola Baseball Park, home to the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, the triple-A level minor league baseball affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. This variety of interesting destinations should help to attract visitors from all over the country. Last but not least, the opportunity to visit Mr. Bulgari's collection will be nothing short of memorable.

The Buick Heritage Alliance is planning a dinner on Friday evening, and the BCA will host a buffet dinner on Saturday evening. Visit the BCA website for more information, and register early in view of the large turnout expected.

**Wanted** old signs, automobilia, petroliana, old gas pumps, barber shop collectables, etc.  
Contact Dick Beckley at [dbeckley@epix.net](mailto:dbeckley@epix.net), phone 717-395-7128. PO Box 128, Lewisberry, PA 17339.



# For Sale

## Parts For Sale

Set of 1969 Electra tail lights. Used condition. \$50.00

1969 Electra 4 dr. Rocker stainless. \$20.00

1949 Buick radio with nice chrome grill. \$100.00

Larry DiBarry 717-263-3804

## *1940 Buick Super Convertible 56-C*

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- *Rust Free*
- *All Original Body Parts*
- *Includes History of Car*
- *New Paint*
- *New Top*
- *New Chrome*
- *New Radial Tires w/w*
- *Runs Good*
- *Scarce Collectible Buick*

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