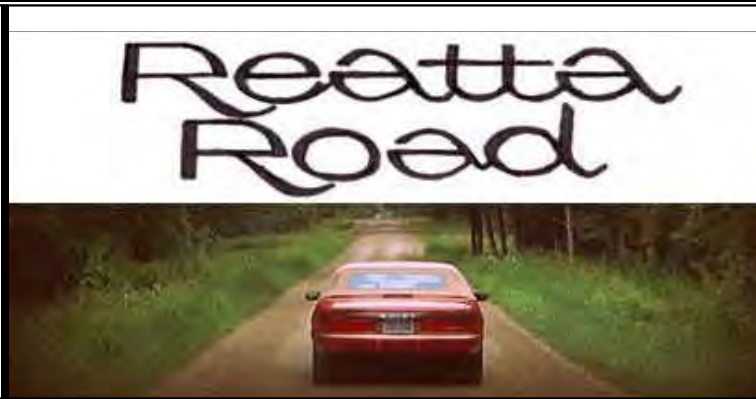




VOLUME 29—ISSUE 4

PAGE 1

Fall, 2025



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



As the year starts to draw to a close, I know a lot of you around the country are starting the process of putting your Reattas into storage for the winter. Here in North Carolina, it's finally not so brutally hot and much more enjoyable weather to take an older car out!

Did you take your Reatta on any memorable trips this year? Or take it to any great car shows? What about a repair you completed that you were extra happy with? We'd love to hear about it! We are always looking for content for this newsletter. Please write an article and send it (with photos!) to newsletter editor Elizabeth Lane. Her email address is on page 5.

My sincere thanks to everyone who braved the North Carolina heat for the BCA National meet this summer. During our meeting at the event, it was brought up again to expand the Reatta Division to include the 2016-2019 Buick Cascada convertibles. There seems to be

a lot of support in making this change as a lot of current and former Reatta owners also own Cascadas. Please see more info regarding that on page 5.

If you haven't already, be sure to get the 2026 BCA National Meet in Albany, NY on your calendar! It will be held August 19-22 which will be an absolutely beautiful time of year to be in Upstate NY!

I'd also like to mention again that I am planning to vacate the directorship at the end of my term next summer. So, if you are interested in running for any of the officer positions, please let me or Jerry know!



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Deadline for Next Issue is Dec. 15th.



My Little Red Reatta (Page 3)

Reatta Vanity Mirror Repair

Pat Gaglione R-Div# 1008

During the ownership of my 1990 Reatta Convertible I had an issue with the lid covering the lighted vanity mirrors on both sun visors. The lid normally would be held in either the fully open or closed positions by an internal spring. The issue occurred when a plastic mounting hook for that internal spring broke off. The repair was rather simple, but I did find it necessary to remove the visors and do the work on the bench. So that was the first step. Once the visor was on the bench, I removed the lenses for the lights and that exposed the screws that held the mirror assembly into the visor. Photo 1 shows the mirror assembly still in the visor but with both lenses and the mounting screws already removed.



Photo 1

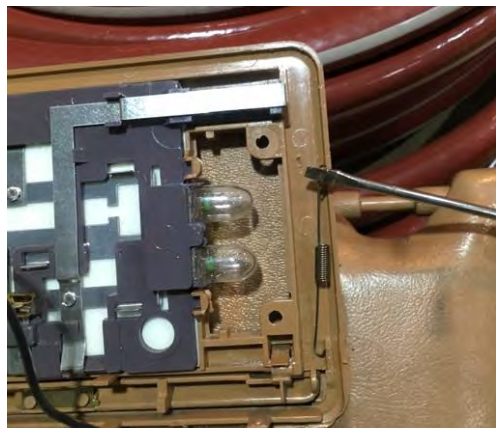


Photo 2

Photo 2 shows the spring held in the approximate position it should be in. The lower end hooks through a hole in a tab that is part of the hinge edge of the lid. The upper end would normally hook onto a tab that has broken off. You can see the place where the tab was, it is just aligned with the tip of the screwdriver. The repair then, is basically securing that end of the spring at or near the position of that missing tab. What I chose to do was to drill a small hole in the nearby edge and secure the spring with a small wire looped through that hole. The hole and its alignment to the original tab location are seen in Photo 3.

Photo 3 also gives a good close-up view of where the original tab had broken off. The position of the drilled hole should be about where the tab was. Obviously, moving that hole further away from the other end of the spring will increase the tension, and moving it closer will reduce the tension. I had considered the idea of moving the hole a bit farther way to make the closing action more secure, but since the other end is also connected to a small plastic part that is over 30 years old, I dismissed that idea and just tried to match the original position.



Photo 3



Photo 4

Finally, in Photo 4 you can see the spring secured back into the mirror unit with a small loop of solid steel wire that I twisted on the outside of the frame. This basically put the twisted wire in the same area as the original plastic tab, ensuring that it will be clear of any interference on the inside of the visor when reassembled.

My Little Red Reatta – Letting Go...

By K. Jones (Buick Reatta Owner BCA#43522/RDiv#2116)

I opened my garage to an empty spot where my little red car (1989 Red Buick Reatta) used to be. You see, we had been through a lot over 35 years together. Anytime I needed to get away – she was there. We would hit the open road together and stress melted away as I pushed the pedal and sank back into those leather seats.

It was my mom that suggested I go look at her from the ad in the paper. I originally got her in ~1990. She had one owner prior who had bought her off the lot (special order). I took a coworker with me to check her out. He looked at her and was impressed. I knew what to expect, since I had the Buick sales catalog and received the big 5.25in floppy disk that showed all the touch screens. You see her prior owner got married, pregnant, and bought a house - thus the 2-seater sport car had to go. That owner also did not want to let her go, but she knew I would appreciate her. I did and it was love ever since.

I removed the blankets and boxes that had buried her over the past 5 plus years in the garage. Work, school, health, and family had overtaken my life. I got a new battery and wondered if she would start up. I had to get in from passenger side over the seats with me 100 pounds pudgier. But I made it and put the key in. The lights and computer all came on. Turned the key and she sputtered then turned over. VARROOOM! You gotta love a Buick!

Varoom varoom....It felt so good to be in the seat again. The rush of memories came pouring over me. We went everywhere from Washington, Idaho, California, and more.

- The time my mom and I wanted to see what the gas mileage and gages at 120 mph (it's over 28-32 mpg by the way, and the smooth ride).
- The long (900 mile) drive to Idaho where I put her on cruise control at 92 mph, my feet up on the dash, and a prayer *"lord don't put anything in front of us – caus we're not stopping!"* We made it safely. *Note: I never did get a ticket in the Reatta; other vehicles yes, but interestingly enough not in the red Reatta.*
- Comments by the Sears Tire center mechanic, who said we both looked good – the car and I were made for each other! I wish now I had a picture of me with my car from the early days.
- My college friend and I drove her though Yellowstone and Jackson Hole. Since my friend's passing several years back, it brough back a fun memory of us driving by a giant Buffalo that we hoped would not chase a little red car.
- My coworkers who refused to ride with another and all squished in the back area pretending there was a back seat (5 of us total – we were all lighter then).
- My drive back to Washington from California after leaving my to-be-hubby/boyfriend. She was filled with my plants, key personal items, as we stopped and visited long lost friends along the way.
- Many people who said that they never fall asleep in a car – were out in 5 minutes (the difference of a comfort Buick ride versus others).
- Professor asking us how old our cars were? Many said 3-5 years; I said mine was over 25 and older than many of the other students in the class!
- Parked at restaurants where I could see her out the window surrounded by men looking at her.

All great memories to remember...

I have had other vehicles over the years, but Buick sets the standard and the Reatta was so ahead of her time. People will hear me say *"what! your car does not have x, my Buick Reatta has had that since 1989 – that should be standard!"*

I had posted her in the Reatta club and Craigslist ads for sale. I hated the thought of her going to someone, who did not care. Now I stare at that empty garage spot. ☹

Do not cry for me though!

At last, I found her a home where she will be appreciated by many. She was donated to be one of the car exhibits at the **LeMay Car Museum** in Tacoma, WA! She went with her time capsule of Buick Reatta memorabilia. She now gets to show case as American made sport car - how awesome Buick Reatta's are, how ahead of their time, and amazing engineering (touch screens, luxury, styling, speed, ...).

And best yet
– I can go
visit her any
time I want!



CARS FOR SALE

1988 Coupe, Red with Gray interior. Very good condition, one owner, always garaged. Maintenance records available. Low mileage **43,269, \$9,500.** Call **Susan (Dayton, OH) at 937-974-6539** or email **kaltenbachroger@aol.com**

1988 Coupe, Red/Beige. I was going to restore. I no longer can and do not want it junked. I am in **Newark, De. \$500. 302-650 -7208 (10/24)**

1989 Coupe, Red/Saddle Interior. 103,000 miles. Very good Condition. **\$7000.** Car Cover. Call or email **Mike. 765-644-0244 (leave message).** Email: **miketiltent@comast.net**

1989 Coupe, red with grey leather interior, sunroof, tinted windows, new battery, ~142k miles, 1 owner & maintenance records avail. \$8K obo. Seattle WA area. **Katrina 206-931-1545 cell; katsell@fastmail.com (10/24)**

Lost Storage - 1990 Reatta Conv. White exterior w/gray interior & white top, (from California dealer's collection), excellent condition, 2024 BCA gold senior winner, includes chassis manual. 27,000 mi. \$15,000 Melanie (630)640-8563 melsbuick455 @ gmail.com

1990 convertible, White/White w/burgundy interior 75000 miles. A/C upgraded, Delco ignition, 16-way seat, CD player, brake system flushed, water pump replaced; facias repainted. Includes two remotes, shop manual, extra radio. Great driver **\$7300.** Text **George at 919-538-4042,** or email at **getoth@gmail.com**

1990 Convertible, white/tan/tan, 137,500 miles. The body and interior are in good condition. The Convertible top has a 6-inch slit in it & was "made waterproof" by an upholstery shop with a silicon patch. It has a clean title, current registration, and a current smog certificate required by the state of California. Located in San Francisco bay area, **\$5,000, Phillip Sanders, 925-330-6320**

1990 Convertible White/White/Red interior. New white convertible top 2023. **Miles 38,126.** Winter stored till late April 2024. Body interior and engine in very good condition. **\$11K obo. Walden, New York. Please leave message at my Hair Salon for Jeanette 845-564-2590.**

1990 Convertible. All original car. Very nice condition. **Claret Red, with saddle top and interior.** Many new parts. A/C updated. has tonneau cover and car cover. Factory shop manual. Complete owner manual. Original factory floor mats Two remotes. Runs and drives great! **69k miles Asking \$12,500, email at richh629@prodigy.net**

1990 Convertible: Claret, Saddle top, Saddle interior with 49K miles. Original CA car, NJ "summer" driver since 2016. Lost winter storage, retired and downsizing with 2 other Buicks. **Hagerty Ins Avg. is \$7,400 - Asking \$8,000. Ed 848-466-0796, ejh213@hotmail.com**

Classified ads will run for one year (4 issues) then be dropped, unless editor is notified to continue the ad. Please notify editor, if car is sold.

REATA PARTS/LITERATURE FOR SALE

Original "Barney cranks" are still available. Steel replacement headlight bellcranks are \$40 ea. (\$35 ea. to BCA members). Kits that include bellcrank, rollers & up-stop instructions are \$45 (BCA members \$40). Rebuilt Reatta headlight motors, \$55 per side. Plastic wing nuts and receptacles (to hold the cover in the rear of the engine compartment) \$2 each plus \$2 shipping. Rebuilt power antenna W/steel cord \$75 (+\$15 return shipping). **Call Barney @ (512) 869-5114 for info or Reatta tech assistance or email: barneyeaton1@gmail.com. Barney Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Dr., Georgetown, TX 78633.**

Largest selection of **Reatta parts** in the country. You name it we have it. Parts and technical support available. We ship world wide. Call or email with your needs. **Orders@EastCoastReattaParts.com, (919) 233-1973.**

Nice Black used convertible top, good condition, has 1 tear the size of a nickel which has been covered with similar material, \$100 plus shipping. Frank: (248) 593-6391

Reatta Literature: over 125 pieces. John Kilbane, North Royalton, Ohio. Call (440) 552-6932.

Lots of **Reatta parts** from 125 parts cars. Located in a salvage yard in Tucson, AZ. **Call Roger McCrone at (520) 977-5463.**

Reatta parts.....21st year.....Large inventory at very reasonable prices. I also have exact reproductions of the convertible visor clips in all factory colors. **Contact Jim Finn at reattas60@gmail.com**

1991 Reatta 16" wheels w/tires (low mileage), excellent condition \$1,400. Reatta Dealership Sign (Light), Excellent Condition **\$850 Melanie (630)640-8563 melsbuick455@gmail.com**

Jerry Richstein

I don't have anything to put in the Reatta Road very often, but I have decided to do so now.

The reason is that I'd like to try and save the Reatta Division some money.

Printing & mailing the Reatta Road costs about \$1,700/year. We can save a lot of money if we email the PDF to those members willing to receive it via email instead of the hard copy via "snail mail". We already have some members that get only the PDF via email, and we haven't had any problems so far.

I understand that there are lots of reasons that some members would rather keep receiving the hard copy. Some people don't have a computer and use their phone for email, and it would be hard to read the Reatta Road on the phone. Or they have a computer, but not a printer.

Whatever the reason, this change will be entirely voluntary and would be on an "opt in" basis. Anyone that doesn't "opt in" will continue to receive the hard copy via "snail mail". Anyone that does "opt in" can change their mind and go back to receiving the hard copy at any time by letting me know that's what they want. I'll make the change immediately, no questions asked.

Please send an email to ReattaClub@gmail.com if you would like to give the PDF a try. I will then reply with the PDF of the current Reatta Road. You would then decide to "opt in" for future issues via email, or decide to keep getting the hard copy. All you will need to do is let me know your preference.

SHOULD REATTA DIVISION INCLUDE CASCADA OWNERS?

The question has been raised if the Reatta Division should include owners of the Buick Cascada (2016–2019) within its ranks. While not directly descended from the Reatta, the Buick Cascada shares the Reatta's mission and design philosophy - offering a stylish, limited-production, two-door experience in a Buick badge.

There is considerable overlap between these two models with many R-Div members also owning a Cascada. Division members should give some consideration to this issue as we expect a formal proposal on the question in the near future. **By Pat Gaglione**

Please give us your opinion. We will vote in a future issue. (Editor)

CLUB HATS AND VISORS

The Reatta Division has purchased hats for sale from Lands End: 3 colors are available: red, black and white (adjustable size) – all with the Sunburst Logo.



Also available white visor with "Reatta" in script.

All are \$15 each plus shipping for Reatta Division members (\$20 each non-members). Please contact Anne Gibson (agibson36@gmail.com or (336) 599-9589 to order.

Reatta Division

Buick Club of America

Officers & Key Division Positions

WEB SITE ADDRESS:

www.reatta.org

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89reatta@gmail.com



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Anne Gibson: agibson36@gmail.com
George Madsen: mrrevetta@att.net

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Mike Glaze: mbglaz@gmail.com

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REATTA ROAD EDITOR:

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buffylane39@sbcglobal.net

LAND'S END STORE FOR MEMORABILIA

<https://business.landsend.com/store/reatta>

MEMBERS ONLY PASSWORD FOR THE REATTA DIVISION WEB SITE IS:

Buick3800 (CASE SENSITIVE).

PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL APPEAR HERE IN EACH NEWSLETTER. CHECK EACH NEWSLETTER FOR A NEW PASSWORD. IT WILL CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME.

1990 REATTA CONVERTIBLE NEAR THE REDWOOD FOREST IN CALIFORNIA



Photo by Paul Gomberg

MEMBERSHIP & DIVISION INFORMATION

Reatta Division dues are still only \$10/year and can be paid for up to 3 years at a time. You can either mail a check payable to the Reatta Division, BCA via "snail mail", or you can pay online through PayPal.

Please note that a **pink** highlighter mark on the RDIV number on your envelope means that your Reatta Division dues are either due soon or past due. In order to continue receiving the Reatta newsletter, your RDIV membership status needs to be current.

Please write checks payable to **Reatta Division, BCA** or pay online through PayPal to: ReattaClub@gmail.com

NOTE: Please send to "Friends and Family" if using PayPal.

Send all dues payments and address changes (include your RDIV # on your check) to:
SECRETARY/TREASURER, JERRY RICHSTEIN, 4798 Grants Way NE, Marietta, GA 30066

NOTE: All Reatta Division members are required to be members of the national organization, Buick Club of America, of which we are an authorized division. Please note that a **blue** highlighter mark on your BCA number on your mailing label means that you are not a current member of the BCA. In order to continue receiving the Reatta Division newsletter, your BCA membership status needs to be current. The national organization can be contacted at: **BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA**, % Cornerstone Registration, Ltd., PO Box 1715, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6715; **PHONE:** (763) 420-7829; **FAX:** (763) 420-7849; **EMAIL:** bca@cornerstonereg.com

Please send all classified ads and newsletter submissions to: **NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Elizabeth Lane**, 39 Cockle Hill Road, Salem, CT 06420 or **EMAIL:** buffylane39@sbcglobal.net