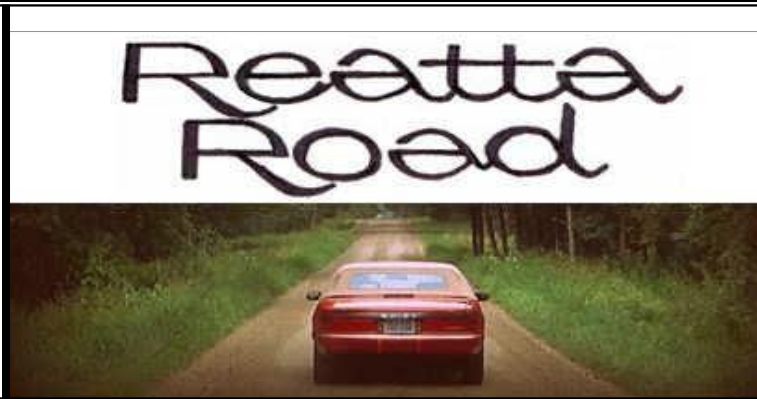




VOLUME 29—ISSUE 1

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Spring, 2025

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



Happy spring to all Reatta owners far and wide!

Unfortunately, my Reatta is in the back of the garage in favor of my Buicks with back seats as my daughter will be born any day now. But I am really looking forward to this year's Buick National Meet coming up July 23-26th in Concord, NC.

Assistant Director Brian has put together a great Reatta Rendezvous for Thursday afternoon with a tour of the Sullenberger Aviation Museum and dinner at Noble Smoke BBQ for some great NC-style BBQ. Mark your calendars for Thursday July 24th. We will be leaving the host hotel around 2:00 to start the Rendezvous. More info and registration form will be in the June issue of Reatta Road.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I hope to see you and your Reatta at the National Meet!

2023 Reatta Homecoming

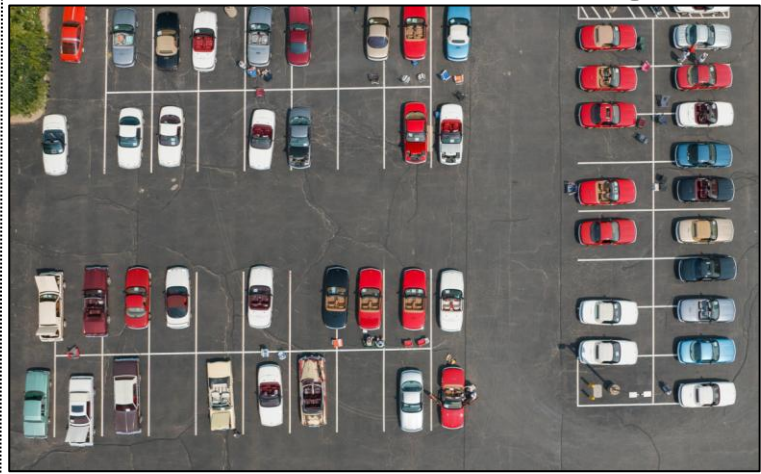


Photo by Paul Gomberg



Photo by Paul Gomberg

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Deadline for next Issue is June.

POWER STEERING LINE REPAIR/ REPLACEMENT GM 3800 Engine

John Link BCA #45018

I recently had the "Pleasure" of repairing a leaking power steering return line on my '91 Reatta. The line was leaking at the GM pressed fittings. The return line from the cooler to the pump is located below the radiator and runs up the passenger side of the engine, under the coil pack, under the alternator, behind the serpentine belt tensioner roller, and under the power steering pump. It is comprised of a short piece of rubber line at the pump, a multi-bend 3/8 steel line w/metal bracket, and a long piece of rubber line to the cooler. The rubber PS lines are press fitted to the metal line.

Removal of the line was the biggest problem. Removed serpentine belt & metal bracket. Removed the clamps at both ends, removed battery ground cable under the coil pack (where a metal hose retaining bracket is located also) and removed the PS Pump (2bolts). The line was now loose BUT, would not come under the serpentine belt tension roller, even when the tensioner (w/roller) was lifted all the way up !!

Tried to remove the roller (NOTE: LEFT HAND THREAD) and then lift the tensioner but without success. I was afraid I'd damage the tensioner by putting that much force on the bolt without the roller installed. So, I cut a piece of 1" OD pipe, 1/2" long to make a spacer and installed it to replace the roller. Then, I could raise the tensioner and remove the PS pipe without damaging the tensioner. So, I was able to remove the entire line without disturbing the coil pack or the alternator.

I couldn't find any reference to removal of the line in my Service Manual. After researching, I was able to find the manufacturer's part #. Edelmann #91789 is available on Amazon for \$96, can be ordered from Rock Auto for \$74, or ordered from AutoZone for \$68. I thought it would be less expensive to have a hydraulic shop simply put 2 new fittings (and rubber PS hose) on the 3/8 pipe. Tried 2 hydraulic shops and neither could do the GM type pressed fittings. The Edelmann line does not use the original style GM compression clamps. It uses the PS hose clamps that were used by GM in the 1960s.

Rather than wait for a line to be shipped, and pay for the rather expensive line, I decided to simply cut the pressed fittings off and clamp new rubber PS hose to the metal line. Used my Dremel to remove the GM pressed fittings (photos), purchased 4' of PS hose (\$12) and then used double SS screw clamps to attach the hose where the leaking pressed fittings had been.

Reinstalled everything, added PS fluid, bled system and checked for leaks.

Total cost \$12 , 4 clamps, and some PS fluid. Wonder what the dealer would have charged !!!!

Now if there's a problem, the flexible line can be replaced by simply removing the screw clamps.



REATA HEADLIGHT UPDATE

Barney Eaton

Most of you have probably had an issue with your headlights opening slowly or Jerking and, in some cases refusing to open at all. Fortunately, we have had repair kits available for several years and I will not beat that old dog.

In recent years I have discovered motors that have good rollers and upgraded bellcrank arms but there is still an issue with the headlight doors opening and closing. The problem I have found is the motor output shaft has failed where pressed into the casting inside the motor. The motor shaft has a knurl and that is intended to bite into the casting material and lock the two parts together.

What I believe has happened... When someone worked on repairing the motor, transferred the torque used to tighten the bellcrank nut down the shaft and broke the bond on the shaft. I have included some pictures and sketches that show the parts.

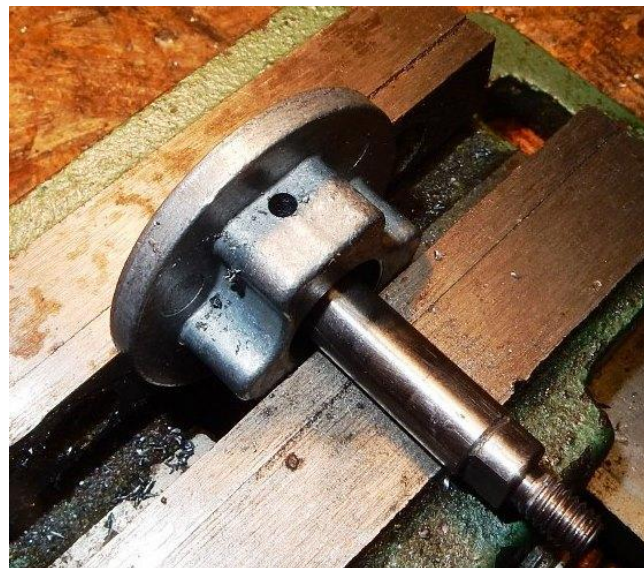
The solution if done before the parts are damaged is to hold the bellcrank when the nut is tightened, that prevents the torque transfer. Should you already have a shaft that has broken its bond; purchase 1/8 diameter roll pins and by drilling a 1/8 hole thru the casting into the shaft and out the other side, the roll pin can be driven into the hole and lock the two parts back together again.



(1) with the green background shows the shaft and casting together with just a shaft below that shows the knurl.



(2) the blue background shows the parts inside the motor again with a casting and shaft separated.



(3) the part with a hole in it is where I drill the hole to install the roll pin.

CARS FOR SALE

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 (6/24)

1989 Coupe, Red/ Beige, 80K Miles, just replaced CRT. Going from 3 Reattas to 2. Runs good. Call **Brad 678-543-3727 Atlanta, GA (3/24)**

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)**

1990 Convertible, white exterior w/gray interior, white top (from California dealer's collection), excellent condition, **'24 BCA gold senior winner**, includes chassis manual, and mechanics log, **25,000 miles, \$20,000.** **Melanie (630)640-8563** melsbuick455@gmail.com (10/24)

3 Reattas package \$11,000 - 1990 convertible - black with tan top and interior, 56,000 miles . 1990 coupe - white with tan interior, 96,000 miles, one owner sunroof project car, these two are in Madison, WI. 1990 coupe - parts car, red with a tan interior, located in Omaha. For info **Call 402-690-5197 or email** treyjay1@gmail.com. Pictures available. (9/23)

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 (3/25)**

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 (3/24)**

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. (3/24)**

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 (3/24).**

1990 Convertible, claret red/tan/black 28,000 miles. All original and in pristine condition. **Rare, one of only two claret red convertibles built in 1990 with tan interior and black top.** All documents from new including window sticker and leather owner's packet with flashlight and build info. Clean CarFax and clear Florida title, Everything works as it should, cold AC, 4 new tires w/less than 1K miles mounted on 16" Cadillac chrome rims, original factory rims included, new battery, 2keys and fobs, spare never down, turnkey car ready to enjoy as is, needs nothing. One family owned prior to my purchase. Definitely one of the nicest ones out there. **Asking \$15,900 obo. Located Tampa Bay area Florida. Ray Smith 631-662-7148 (text only) liguyusa@aol.com (12/24)**

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.

REATTA 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 **\$1,800.** Reatta Dealership Sign (Light), Excellent Condition **\$950**

Melanie (630)640-8563 melsbuick455@gmail.com



Photo by Paul Gomberg

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 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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Mike Glaze: mbglaz@gmail.com

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Peter Gariety
petergariety@gmail.com

BCA TECHNICAL ADVISOR:

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barneyeaton1@gmail.com

REATTA ROAD EDITOR:

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Salem, CT 06420
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.



2025 Reatta Rendezvous and Division Meeting

Please remember to keep Thursday, July 24th for the Reatta Rendezvous outing, usually and/or afternoon and evening. More information on this Reatta Rendezvous in the June Newsletter.

The Division Meeting is on Saturday, July 26th at 4 PM. Please check the schedule for the room assignment.

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 to me via “snail mail”, or you can pay online through PayPal. The PayPal account is: ReattaClub@gmail.com

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

Please make checks payable to: **REATA DIVISION, BCA**

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**