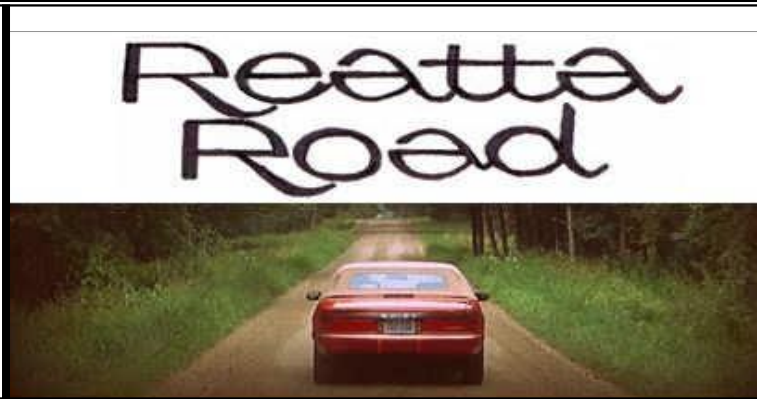




VOLUME 28—ISSUE 4

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Fall, 2024



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



Fall has arrived in North Carolina! Thankfully we didn't have any storm damage here in Durham from Hurricane Helene that devastated Western NC a few weeks ago. We had a lot of water here, but no major flooding.

I've been selling several of my Reattas over the last few months after receiving the news that Kaitlyn and I are expecting a baby girl in March! With the realization that the practicality of a two-seater car will decrease with my growing family, I've decided to downsize my collection to one or two Reattas. While it's bittersweet to see some of them go, I'm looking forward to the future!

I received some exciting news today that, assuming all goes smoothly, we should have another run of the currently-unavailable Reatta rear shocks available to ship by Christmas. If you missed out on the last run of these I did, you have another Reatta that is in

need, you can sign up for more info through my website www.EastCoastReattaParts.com.

I hope this issue finds you well and you can get a few more enjoyable miles out of your Reatta before winter comes!

***"THE GREAT AMERICAN ROAD
BELONGS TO BUICK!"***



Photo by Marck Barker

Photo by Jim Finn



Get ready winter is coming!

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Deadline for next Issue is Dec 15.

*I thought our fellow Reatta Road readers might enjoy some research I did on our 1990 Buick Reatta convertible. **Craig Call, BCA# 44860***

THE MOST EXPENSIVE BUICK EVER MADE!

The honor of boasting the highest base sticker price of any production Buick in the last 110 years goes to the 1990 Reatta Convertible. Adjusted for inflation, the Reatta would cost \$82,213.08 before options in 2023 dollars.

We did not have inflation indexes and Buick prices before 1914, but the cars built at the beginning of our analysis would cost less than 2/3 of the Reatta price in 2023 dollars, so it would seem safe to conclude that the 1990 convertible is the most expensive production Buick ever sold.

The closest competitor is the 1991 Reatta convertible which, although it had the same sticker price as the 1990 model, was priced in inflated dollars one year after the 1990 model year. It would cost \$81,079.95 in 2023 dollars.

The current base sticker price for the most expensive Buick is \$58,865 for the Enclave Avenir. While it is true that options can push that cost higher and the Reatta had very few options, it is of interest that the Reatta's original base value was historically so high.

The third-closest competitor for the high sticker honors was the 1984 Riviera Luxury Series Z Convertible, which in 2023 dollars would begin at \$77,005.08 – about \$5,000 less than the Reatta.

Of note is how cars have inflated in value over some other common consumer goods – the most expensive pre-WWII Buick was the magnificent 1939 Buick 90L 8 Passenger Limousine, which could have been bought new for only \$54,186.77 in 2023 dollars, adjusted for inflation.

The most recent competitor for high sticker price comes in 7th in our analysis – after four Riviera Z Convertibles – is the 2019 Enclave Avenir at \$70,728 in 2023 dollars. It costs about 14% less than a new Reatta convertible would cost if the prices held the same today.

So next time you cruise in your Reatta with the top down – remember you are driving the most expensive production Buick ever made!

YEAR MODEL	Original PRICE	Cumulative INFLATION	2023 DOLLARS
1988 E/C REATTA COUPE	25,000.00	118.3000	64,888.21
1989 E/C REATTA COUPE	26,700.00	124.0000	66,115.01
1990 E/C REATTA CONVERTIBLE	34,995.00	130.7000	82,213.08
1991 E/C REATTA CONVERTIBLE	35,965.00	136.2000	81,079.95
2023 ENCLAVE AVENIR FWD	58,865.00 3	07.0510	58,865.00
1984 Z 67 RIVIERA LUXURY SERIES Z CONVERTIBLE	26,057.00	103.9000	77,005.08
1939 39-90L 4D LIMOUSINE 8P	2,453.00	13.9000	54,186.77
2019 ENCLAVE AVENIR FWD	58,890.00	255.6570	70,728.49

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON THE STANDARD CATALOGUE OF BUICK TO 2004, THEN ON THE AUTOBYTEL INTERNET SITE FROM 2005 TO 2018. 2019-2022 PRICES ARE FROM KELLEY BLUE BOOK. 2023 PRICE IS FROM BUICK.COM

INFLATION NUMBERS ARE FROM USINFLATIONCALCULATOR.COM

CRAIG CALL - craig_call@comcast.net

Details Written by: Padgett

Below are several things you should check when considering a Reatta purchase.

The Buick Reatta is a unique vehicle that has several items that will need to be checked in order to make a good decision on the value of the Reatta you are considering.

Coupes and Convertibles:

First thing to do is to examine the underside carefully for signs of rust. Anything needing more than a little wire brush and Rustoleum would be a good reason to pass on purchasing the car.

Next check the glass for scratches or cracks. Glass is probably the most expensive area to fix.

See if it drives well with no squeaks or rattles. Get over 50 mph and verify that the torque converter lockup works and all gears are there. Watch out for any electrical issues, windows go up and down properly, remotes work. Radio, tape, and CD all work. ABS light comes on at startup and goes out shortly, run brake test.

Check for proper operation of the A/C. Check to see if the headlights go up and down with no extra whirring, popping or other noises after the headlight door has stopped moving.

Beyond that just check the normal things: maintenance history, when were the brakes flushed, trans and oil changed (with filters ?).

Interior should be on par with the value but no rips or tears. Basically, seats is a plus.

Basically, look for a clean original car with no major appearance/mechanical items needed.

Easy rule of thumb:

- Rust or cracked glass = pass
- Nonoperational A/C = \$ 1000 off
- ABS light on = \$ 1000 off
- Transmission issues = \$ 1,000 off
- Other mechanical items = same cost as to fix a 1990 Bonneville (even has the same ECM just a different PROM)

Unique to convertibles:

One item to check carefully on a convertible is the top weatherstripping. Replacements are not available anywhere. Look closely where the door glass contacts the weatherstripping at the rear of the door as that is probably the most worn spot.

Make sure the header bow latches securely with no rattles.

Check carefully for cowl shake as some are horrible while others ride very nice.

Try to find a car that has been garaged most of its life as there will be better paint and likely a much better interior. Convertibles are also more leak prone so a garaged car will fare better.

Thanks to Padgett, and members of the Reatta forums, for this information.

***Thanks to the Reatta
Owners Journal for
the Information.***



HOW I FOUND MY REATTA

By William Hitchcock

June 2022 and the Buick Nationals were being held in Lisle, IL. Melanie Mauser and the host Chicagoland Chapter created a busy schedule of guest speaker events. The Reatta Division club meeting featured guest speaker, David McIntosh.

I knew little about the Reatta and figured I should attend and learn more. Great lecture and slide show (guess that is now called a PowerPoint presentation), I was impressed and enjoyed the seminar.

Returned home in my 1964 Buick LeSabre Sport Coupe with an Elite award (car scored 400 out of 400 points) and an idea to see if any nice Reatta were for sale in my area. After all, I could justify purchasing another Buick using the logic this would reduce wear and tear on the LeSabre.

A quick check on Facebook Marketplace showed a 1990 convertible for sale only 40 miles away. The next day I headed to Racine just to get an idea of the market and maybe test drive a Reatta. Upon arrival the vehicle was really clean, low mileage and had an almost flawless body, interior, and top.

The seller was the daughter and dad had passed away. The history was that the Reatta was purchased new in Racine by a local printing company. Her dad purchased in October, 1999, with only 35,700 miles. He had purchased it for his wife, but she preferred to drive her Lexus. During the next 3 ½ years only 305 miles were added to the odometer.

With such little usage, the decision was made to just store the car in the barn for a while. June, 2002, at 36,050 miles, started what became a longer event than anyone planned. Time moved on and the Mrs. passed away and a few years later the owner passed away.

In June, 2022, after 20 years, plans were made to remove the Reatta and put it up for sale. The daughter thought a new battery would awake the car from it's 20-year slumber. 12 volts of fresh juice did not solve the starting issue.

A flatbed trailer ride to a local repair shop and then.....

- Drain and drop the gas tank
- Replace the fuel pump
- Clean the injectors
- New fuel filters, new spark plugs, and wires
- Engine and transmission oil changed
- Ante-freeze flushed

.....finally, a test drive showed that all was well except the tires needed to be replaced. So, 4 new tires were installed.

Car was then offered for sale; a few young people reportedly showed an interest but no offers were made. Then I found the Reatta on Facebook and the rest is history.

PS: There is a lesson here....use your car because long term storage is not a good thing and correcting the bad things can be expensive.



Bill Hitchcock's Car

Beware – VIN/History Report Scam on Selling your Buick

By K. Jones (Buick Reatta Owner, Seattle, WA)



My friend called and asked me to setup some availability to show my car. I had asked him to help me sell my 1989 Buick Reatta, since he as a hobby, bought, restored and sold cars on a regular basis. I had had this car from when I originally got her in 1990s. She had one owner prior who bought her off the lot but got married, pregnant, and bought a house and thus the 2-seater sport car had to go.

Within 24 hours of the craigslist ad being posted, he was contacted by over 5 people interested. “Wow” I thought, maybe the price was low or there is a run on Buicks! Soon he was asking when I was available to show the car. However, during the conversations via text with these possible buyers, each were asking for history report. He told me that he usually had people interested in buying to run the report. “Pound sand” he said.

I was curious as to what system they were using for this report. He texted me the name of the site, but I was not able to tell if spell check helped or typed wrong. It looked odd and with my cyber background wanted to investigate. So, investigate I did.

I started with general google search on vin scams. Sure enough with online sales, one of the newest scams (since 2018) is on VIN/History car reports. The google search provided a valid government website from the Federal Trade Commission, “Steering clear of vehicle history report scams”.(1) The scammer gives you an odd website that redirects you. For example, sometimes these websites have “VIN” in the domain, which is French for wine. Scammers are after your credit card information when they send you to these fake websites.

The article also provides a link to FTC approved websites for getting this information. So if you want to run a valid report you can from the (Department of Justice) National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS), which lists approved Data providers.(2) Also my insurance company provided 2 free sites that they use which are National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)(3) and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)/Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI)(4).

Good luck on buying and selling your Buick. Hopefully, these tips will help make your buy/sell smooth like the ride of our Reattas.

FYI - Mine is still on the market and hoping that another Buick lover will buy her.

Reference(s):

1. Colleen Tressler, FTC Consumer Education Specialist. (October 19, 2018). “Steering clear of vehicle history report scams”. Federal Trade Commission (FTC). <https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2018/10/steering-clear-vehicle-history-report-scams>
2. Department of Justice. (n.d.). Research Vehicle History - Approved NMVTIS Data Providers. Retrieved August 30, 2024, from https://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov/nmvtis_vehiclehistory#0-0
3. National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). (October 11, 2024). Check if stolen or salvage/part title. <https://www.nicb.org>
4. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)/Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI). (October 11, 2024). Check vehicle rating on car crash/safety ratings. <https://www.iihs.org>

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 Coupe, Red, beige interior, 137,000 miles, body, interior and engine in good condition. Located north Chicago suburb. Requesting \$4,200. Call 847-778-8193cp (9/23)

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, \$19,500 or BRO. 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/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).

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.



Photo by Alan Oldfield

1990 Select 60 Convertible, 1 of only 65 Built

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 Gombert



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*

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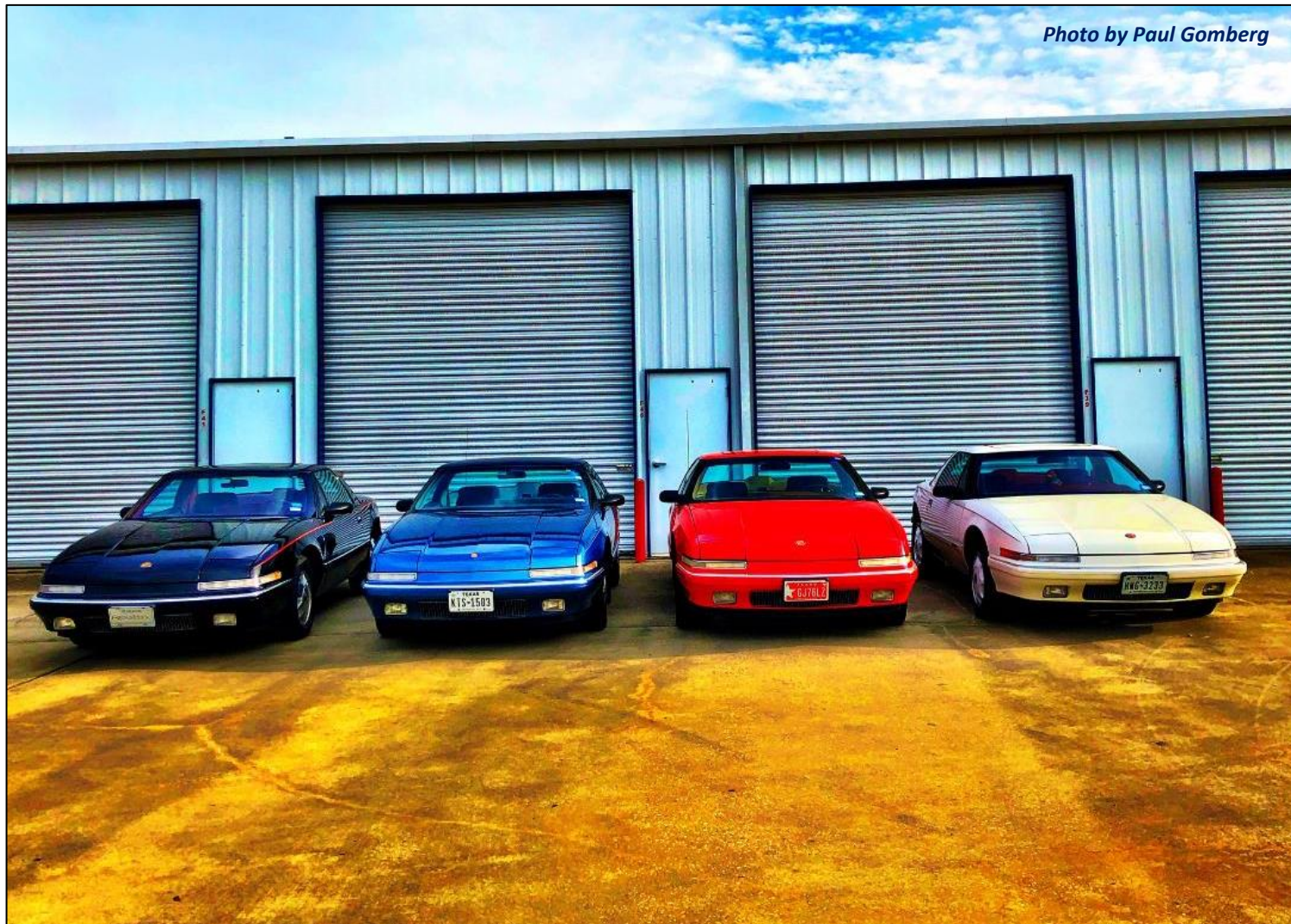
LAND'S END STORE FOR MEMORABILIA

<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.



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**