



Reatta Road



VOLUMN 23—ISSUE 1

PAGE 1

Spring 2019



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Anne Gibson



Hi Reatta folks,

Hope everyone and their Reattas have survived this brutal winter! Even here in the south we have had record cold temperatures. Our 2 Reattas have been tucked away in the garage, with only the coupe making a few outings. I am looking forward to spring and warmer weather and know you are too.

I have received a request from the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum in Lansing, Michigan to adopt a Reatta that was donated to the museum by Jim Butt. Jim was a long time BCA and Reatta Division member who passed away last year. Jim's Reatta is a 1990 white convertible with a blue interior. The museum's adoption program has several levels:

- **Foster Parent** - For a \$60 gift you can meet the needs of an automobile of your choice for six months. In return a small sign will be placed in the window of the car announcing your "Foster Parent" status. You will also receive one FREE and one BOGO pass that will allow you and a friend to visit your fostered vehicle. Foster care is renewable at a rate of \$50 for a six-month period.
- **Adopt a Car** - For a one-time \$100 donation you can choose a car to become part of your extended family for a period of one year. A sign will be placed near the car that will explain how you have taken it in and are providing for its care. Your chosen vehicle and its adoption will get special coverage in the Museum newsletter as well as on our website. You will receive 2 FREE and 2 BOGO passes so you can spend time together. A 10% off coupon will allow you to pick up a memento of your visit from our gift shop. Yearly extensions are only \$90.
- **Long Term Benefactor** - \$300 will allow you to provide for a favorite automobile for 4 years. When you become a Benefactor your gift will be commemorated with a plaque. Additionally, 4 FREE and 4 BOGO passes will be issued to you. A list of all Benefactors will be published in every newsletter and on the website. Your long-term generosity will also be recognized at the Annual Membership meeting. You can use your 10% gift shop discount whenever you visit. Renewals and longer term support options can be arranged.

Museums across the country seem to have funding problems and I am sure this museum is one of them. I will present this to the membership at the annual meeting this summer in Oklahoma for consideration. Please think about this and if you won't be in Oklahoma, email me or call me with your thoughts on the possible adoption.

The SE Region annual tour (BCA function), which had to be cancelled last November due to flooding from Hurricane Florence, has been rescheduled for October 2019. Exact dates will be in the next newsletter as we have had to change hotels. We will be touring the same area, New Bern, NC and the NC coast, Beaufort, NC. This tour will be finalized with a registration form by the next newsletter. We hope you will be able to join us.

Lastly the next newsletter will contain ballots for election of officers for the coming year. If you desire to run for one of the offices, please let one of the nominating committee members (listed on the last inside page of this newsletter) know. We welcome all who want to serve this division. Also, any nominations for the Peterson Award (award for outstanding service to the division and preservation of Reattas) please contact one of the division officers to nominate someone. If no nominations are received, the award will not be given this year.

Take care, Spring is on its way.

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Deadline for the next issue is May 1st

REATA UNDERSEAT SPLICES

Barney Eaton

Some Reatta owner have found bad electrical connections under the seats that cause problems with the interior lighting, power windows, power seats, remote entry and security system. The problem is often bad splice joints in the wiring harness that have gotten wet and caused the connection to fail. The reference material here is from the 1990 service manual but should be similar for all years.

An instant clue that you may have a problem is damp carpet under the seats. The wiring harness runs in a plastic housing that will hold water if the car has a leak. Over the years, the water has damaged some or all of the connections.

If you feel you have a problem, you start by removing the seat(s) then the aluminum door sill with Reatta name in the center, peel back the carpet to expose the wiring housing, open the cover and look for the splices. If you look at the manual picture, all the splices are designated by the number starting with and 'S', now look at my list and I have tried to indicate what each splice is for but they are not number in the harness. I recommend if you have gone as far as removing the seats and pulling back the carpet.....repair ALL the splices.

The factory service manual (section 8A-5) shows how to repair splices...but they show splicing a wire in the middle. The splices under the seats are several wires bundled together, a metal sleeve/ferrule placed over all the wires then crimped to hold the wires together. Since they originally used a steel sleeve, it has rusted to the point you are losing the electrical connection.

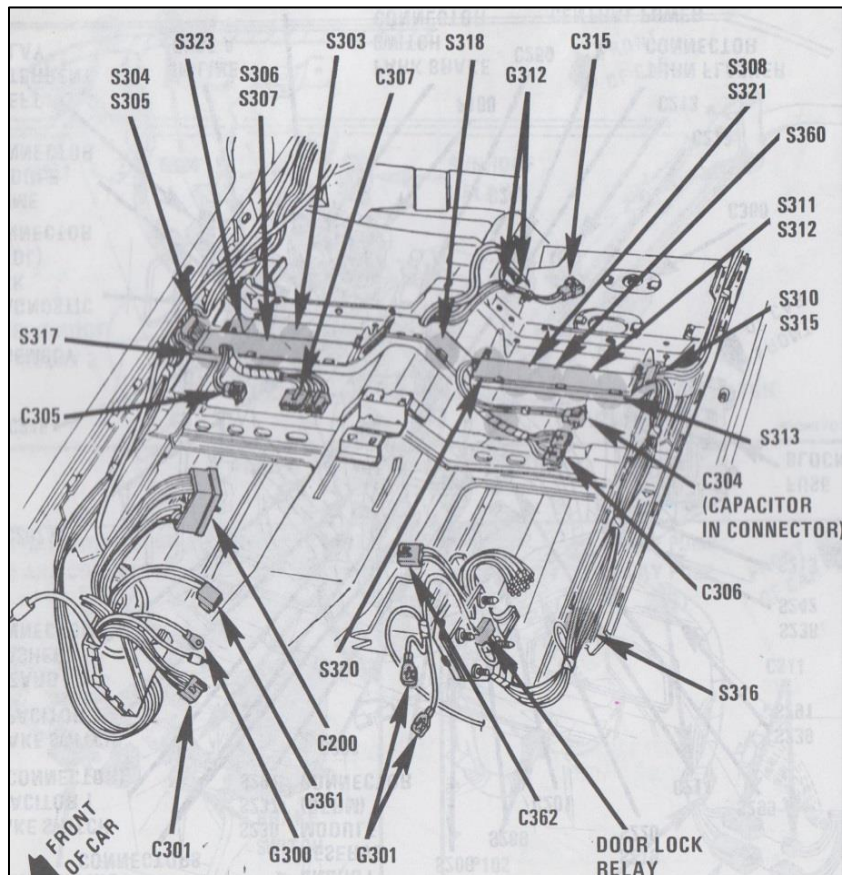
I use the belt and suspender approach to repairing the connection. First you must remove the old steel sleeve, clean the electrical wires if possible, if you have room (enough wire) cut off the dirty wire, then strip of enough insulation for a new connection. Bundle the wire together and install a new sleeve. Use a copper sleeve so it will not rust. If you have it available, short sections of copper tubing work fine, then crimp the sleeve/tubing over the wires. You could stop there but I now solder the joint, this bonds the wires together and fill the gaps where water might get in the wires. When finished, wrap the joint with electrical tape or put shrink tubing over the joint. Hopefully you now have everything working.

DRIVER'S SIDE

- 308 (7) KEYLESS ENTRY, DOOR TAMPER SW, TRUNK TAMPER SW
- 310 DOOR LOCKS
- 311 (11) DOOR LOCKS, TRUNK KEY, TRUNK LIGHT, DOOR WARNING LIGHT, OUTSIDE MIRROR, TURN SIGNALS, COURTESY LIGHT RELAY, TONNEAU ON CONVERTIBLE
- 312 (5) DOOR LOCKS, KEYLESS ENTRY, THEFT DETERRENT
- 313 (5) DOOR LOCKS, KEYLESS ENTRY, THEFT DETERRENT
- 314 DOOR LOCKS
- 315 (3) DOOR LOCKS
- 316 (LOCATED TOWARD FRONT) LH POWER SEAT
- 318 APPEARS TO BE UNDER CENTER SECTION, MAY NOT GET MOISTURE ... POWER SEATS, P WINDOW MASTER
- 320 POWER MIRRORS
- 321

PASSENGER SIDE

- 303 (3) DOOR LIGHTS
- 304 (3) DOOR HANDLE SW, KEYLESS ENTRY
- 305 DOOR WARNING LIGHTS, COURTESY LIGHT RELAY
- 306 (4) KEYLESS ENTRY, DOOR LOCK SW
- 307 (3) DOOR HANDLE SW
- 317 (LOCATED NEAR 'T' OF WIRES) POWER WINDOWS
- 323 (13) DOOR AJAR SW, DOOR JAM SW, DOOR HANDLE SW, KEYLESS ENTRY, FUEL TANK GAGE
- 326



REATA RENDEZVOUS 2019

For this years' Reatta Rendezvous we will have a cruise down historic Route 66 to beautiful Stroud, Oklahoma.

Stroud is home to the Rock Café. Opened in 1939, it was built using rocks unearthed during the construction of Route 66. It served as a Greyhound bus stop during World War II.

"The Rock" as it's lovingly referred to by the locals, is known for it's eclectic, down home menu. We'll be ordering from a fixed menu, but there will be something for everyone!

John Lasseter and a research crew from Pixar Animation Studios visited the Rock Café in 2001, and upon meeting the owner Dawn Welch, began developing the character Sally Carrera for the new movie "Cars". The café features items left by the crew and gifts from Dawn's time working with Pixar and Disney

The cruise to Stroud will be a little over an hour, but will take us through several scenic towns on Route 66. We will be leaving the host hotel around 4:30 Thursday afternoon

We hope you'll join us for this event!

Marck Barker
EastCoastReattaParts.com
919.233.1973

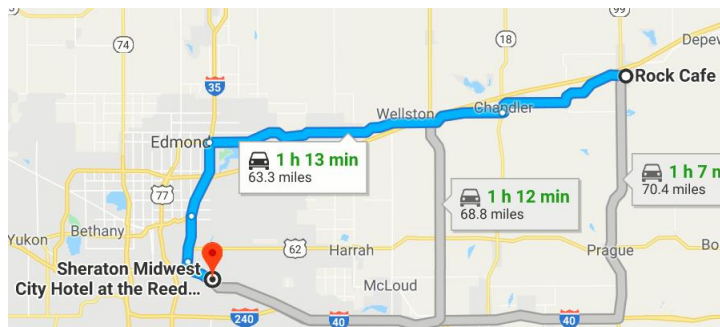


Photo of the Rock Cafe courtesy of TripAdvisor

Calendar of Events

May 5, 2019: St Paul, Minnesota

Gopher State Chapter hosting 32nd Annual Spring Extravaganza Car Show & Swap Meet May 5, 7 am-3 pm. www.gopherstatebuick.org for information.

June 12-15, 2019: Midwest City, OKLAHOMA

How about taking a road trip on Route 66 to Oklahoma for the Buick Club's 2019 national meet? The event will be in Midwest City, an Oklahoma City suburb. Registration forms can be found on the Bugle mail wrap and tour ideas and meet details can be found on each magazine's back cover. Start planning now!

June 12-15, 2019: Midwest City, OKLAHOMA

Reatta Rendezvous Thursday, Annual meeting during this week, usually Saturday afternoon.

June 27-29: Dublin, Ohio

37th Annual Arthritis Foundation Classic Auto Show and Cruise In. More information: emartin@arthritis.org.

August 21-24 2019: Stillwater Minnesota

Minnesota Fireball Chapter hosts Heartland Regional Meet for four days in Stillwater MN. More information: jaegerjh@aol.com

October, 2019: New Bern & Beaufort, NC

The SE Region annual tour (BCA function), which had to be cancelled last November due to flooding from Hurricane Florence, has been rescheduled for October 2019. Exact dates will be in the next newsletter as we have had to change hotels. We will be touring the same area, New Bern, NC and the NC coast, Beaufort, NC. This tour will be finalized with a registration form by the next newsletter. We hope you will be able to join us.

July 15-18, 2020: Strongsville, OHIO

The 2020 BCA national meet will be held July 15-18 in the Cleveland, Ohio area at Strongsville, Ohio, hosted by the Northeast Ohio Chapter. Save the dates.

July 17, 2020: Strongsville, OHIO:

The Buick Heritage Alliance Banquet will be held on Friday, July 17, 2020 from 5pm-10pm at Michaud's Catering and Event Center, Strongsville, Ohio.

**Happy
Birthday!**

1989 Reattas





An online resource
for the Reatta
enthusiast.

Thanks to the Reatta Owners
Journal for the info on this
page. Check out more info at
their Website:
www.ReattaOwner.com.

How To Flush And Bleed The Brakes

*It is **HIGHLY** recommended that all the fluid in the whole system be changed with new fluid every two years to eliminate any built up moisture in the system.*

The pump is a fluid pump and needs to be initially bled to get the air out of the pump. The pump will not work with air in it. Once the brake pump has been off the car, or ran without fluid, it will be air bound and the brake pump will need to have the air purged from it before bleeding rest of the brake system. Here are instructions for purging air from the pump.

1. Any time the brake hydraulic system is to be opened the brake pedal should be pumped 25 times with the key off to bleed off the 2600 pounds of pressure in the accumulator.
2. Siphon out as much of the old fluid as possible from the reservoir and refill with clean fluid to the top. Another good way is to remove the rubber hose that comes from the reservoir right where it attaches to the ABS pump and let all the fluid in the reservoir run out.

The plastic fitting the hose connects to can be easily broken. If you have trouble removing the hose, cut the rubber hose that comes from the reservoir close to where it attaches to the ABS pump. Then remove the piece of hose still attached to the pump fitting and reinstall the rubber hose. It is long enough to do this.

I like to cut it rather than try and remove it because the hose sticks really hard to the plastic fitting and you might break the fitting trying to take the hose off. Doing it this way you get all the fluid out of the reservoir before putting in new clean fluid.

3. When doing the rear wheels only let out about a half of a cup and then refill the reservoir. This is to make sure you don't take out too much and get air into the system.
4. To bleed the front brakes have the key off and bleed in a conventional method. Have someone pump the pedal a few times and hold it down while the other person opens the front bleeders.

The rear calipers on models equipped with the Teves system require a slightly different procedure to bleed the air from the system.

5. To bleed the rear brakes
 - A. Turn on the key and allow the system to pressurize
 - B. Have an assistant slightly depress the pedal and hold it.
 - C. Open each rear bleeder, one at a time, and hold open until clear fluid comes out. (The pump and motor will do the bleeding)
 - D. Close the bleeder with sufficient force but do not over-tighten.

*When you are done check the high and low marks on the reservoir. After the system pump and motor has run and the lights are out the level should be at the low mark. When you have pumped the brakes with the key off **25 times** the level will be at the high mark. Add or remove fluid if necessary to bring the fluid to the correct level.*

Thanks to Jim Finn and members of the AACA Reatta forum, for this information.

First Green Reatta

Martel Gibson

Photos by Martel Gibson

As a Reatta collector, I am always on the hunt for a bargain to add to my field of dreams. Upon leaving the 2011 BCA National in Danvers, MA, we traveled south to Maryland to visit my cousin on the way home to North Carolina. Earlier I had checked Craigslist for Buicks for sale in that area and found a 1991 Reatta for sale with high miles, but the price was reasonable. My cousin and I went to see the Reatta and discovered it was Polo Green. It was at a wholesaler's back lot with a noisy, burned-out muffler. We inspected the car and I negotiated a lower price for it, purchased it and brought to my cousin's house. After purchasing a cover from a local parts store, parked it at my cousin's house until fall and cooler weather. In September I purchased a nice tow dolly and brought the Reatta home.

After checking the VIN (1G4EC13LXMB900614) with the Reatta database, I realized it was the first green Reatta produced. There was documentation with the car that showed it was transferred to a division of Buick and used for by executives for a month. Afterward it was sold to a dealer near Baltimore, MD and then to the original owner. He drove the car over 200,000 miles and took good care of it other than smoking and burning holes in the carpet. I have replaced the carpet, the driver's seat and some other parts. It is currently awaiting completion of cosmetic restoration.

While the mileage is over 210,000 miles, this Reatta still runs as good as one with no more than 50,000 miles.



CARS FOR SALE

1988 Coupe: Red/Tan, 65,500 miles, **BCA Gold Award**. All original. Excellent condition. Owner and Shop manuals. Custom cover and more. **\$9,999**. Joe Girone, Telford, PA, Contact- **nonnog@comcast.net**, **215-723-1431**. (6/18)

1988 Coupe. Red/ Tan. 106,000 Miles. Maintenance since I took over ownership: Transmission mount, Timing belt, Water pump, Power steering pump , Struts/Shocks all around. **\$2,100 obo. Michelle 619 990-4763** please leave message if no answer or text. Email: **servingsd@yahoo.com** (9/18)

1988 Coupe; Red, grey leather, 86,000 miles, always garaged. Originally an Arizona car, in excellent condition; runs and drives great; everything works except the cassette player. A/C blows cold air, converted to 134A in 2017. **\$10,000**. Contact Don Cantleberry at **989-354-5504** or **cberry895@msn.com**. (6/18)

1989 Coupe Red, Beechwood interior, 16 way seats. A daily driver 122,000 miles, was lightly rear-ended by a 2018 Lincoln Navigator resulting in some minor scratches (no dents) but left side corner of taillight scraped pretty bad.

Caveat: The insurance company TOTALED the car, paid me off very well, and I got to keep the car as well. I believe that upon sale & transfer there will be a salvage title issued to the new owner? At any rate, the car is a strong runner and once I get responses asking for additional details, the best offer will take it. (I was paid very well by the insurance company). I still have it insured (liability only, as the salvage will preclude any collision coverage). My insurance carrier, AAA, told me there is a procedure for taking salvaged cars off of salvage and restoring clear title. So, it will NOT go to the crusher!

ALSO, coming soon. . . I will be offering my **'90 Select 60 Convertible** for sale as well. Again, when the time comes, plenty of photos and information will be forthcoming. **toleary@bak.rr.com**. **(661)300-0882 CELL (661)398-2105 WORK**, (9/18)

1990 Convertible: White/white top/ blue interior. 67,000 miles, **kenclausen38@gmail.com**, **(616)466-1758 asking \$5,000**. Kenneth Clausen - Spring Hill, Fla (12/18)

1990 Convertible. Red/Tan top/Tan interior. 44,600 miles. New Top, AC blows cold, 16 way seat. This car is clean inside & out, always garage stored. Contact Larry Peterson **316-655-9725** asking **\$12,000 O.R.O.** You may email: **gpstubby@gmail.com** if you want to see pictures. (9/18)

1990 Convertible - red with white top/maroon interior. 59,000 miles - family owned since new. **\$8,500 obo**. Contact Leslie Ellison - **(706)676-1573** **lellisonsr@aol.com** (9/18)

1990 Convertible, brown/tan, 58,000 miles, CD player and cassette player, Hand assembled, Automatic transmission, V-6, 170 hp, Leather Seats, loaded, Runs great and SO fun to drive, Delivery available . **\$6,500**. John: **231-970-1714** or **buttons1031@hotmail.com**. (6/18)

1990 Coupe, Black, 160,745 Miles, Sunroof : Hello my name is Jarrod Kemp I live in Lake Odessa, MI. I am trying to sell a 1990 Buick Reatta for my grandma, she and my grandpa bought it a few years ago. My grandpa worked for General Motors in Lansing and he has passed away. We just want to sell to someone who can enjoy it and give it a good home. Thank you so much for your time, my number is **269 838 4791**. (9/18)

1990 Convertible. White/Burgundy Interior. 74,000 miles. Has all possible options. Excellent condition. **\$11,000**. Contact Bill @ **586-574-1137** or **586-383-1137**. Car in Michigan. William Smith, Warren, MI (9/18)

1990 Coupe, Silver W/Grey Leather interior. 168,000 miles, 3800 engine, 2nd owner, always garaged. Needs a good home. **\$2,000 OBO**, Contact Steve Erdman @ **507-317-4047**, or **Reattanut@Frontiernet.net**. Elysian, Minnesota. (9/18)

1990 Convertible: White/blue top/blue interior, 44,000 miles, no damage, older repaint. Runs great. Has recent brakes and top. Interior like new. Have original, refinished wheels and tires. A nice car for your collection. With pictured wheels and tires **\$12,500**. **\$11,000** with original wheels. Call Ed at **610-366-0234** or cell **484-707-6146**. (9/18)

1991 Green (only 120 made this color). 140,000 miles. Only two owners. New A/C condenser. Have original books. **\$5,800**. Contact Nelson Van Atta, BCA# 42176. **nelsond64@aol.com**. **(607)765-4300** Located in Binghamton, NY. (6/18)

1991 Convertible, Red/Tan with Hartz cloth top. CD and 16 way seats. A little over 32K miles and in excellent condition. 394 point gold senior at BCA National Meet in Charlotte. **\$18,700**. Call Ed Farnell **803-360-6806** or email: **eafarnell@gmail.com**. (3/18)

Classified ads will run for one year (4 issues) and then dropped, unless editor is notified to continue the ad. For those with 3/18 after your ad, please contact me to keep it running.

REATTa PARTS FOR SALE

"Reports have been recently received about a Reatta vendor, that items ordered and paid for, but not received and no replies to inquiries. As always BUYER BEWARE. If you need suggestions as to reputable Reatta vendors, contact one of the Reatta Board of Directors."

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.** (6/18)

Lots of Reatta parts from 175 parts cars. Located in a salvage yard in Tucson, AZ. **Call Roger McCrone at 520-977-5463.** (3/18)

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** (3/18)

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 (exchange plus \$5 shipping) 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 \$60 (+\$15 return shipping). Trunk lock cover repair kits \$9.50. Custom Reatta car covers and all other cars in 14 fabrics and several colors, also 7 sizes of motorcycle covers (call for prices on covers). **Call Barney @ 512-869-5114 for info or Reatta tech assistance. Barney Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Dr., Georgetown, TX 78633.** (3/18)

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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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.



Coming home from the 2015 BCA National Meet in Springfield, MO

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 at: buffylane39@sbcglobal.net**