



Reatta Road



VOLUME 26—ISSUE 3

PAGE 1

Fall 2022



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



A SPECIAL SELECT 60 AT THE BCA NATIONAL MEET IN LISLE, IL

I first spoke to Nick Branoff a couple years ago when he was looking for a part for one of his three 1990 Reattas. While we were talking it came up that he had recently purchased a very nice 1990 Select 60 Reatta that was owned new by Ed Mertz the former Chief Engineer from 1981-1985 and General Manager of Buick Motor Division from 1986 to 1996.

Many of you may be familiar with the Select 60s and what makes them special. All the 1990 Select 60s were white convertibles with white 1991-style 16" wheels, pinstripe delete, black side moldings and a white vinyl top. On the interior, they all had white 16-way seats and white door panels with Flame Red carpet and accents.

These cars were awarded to the top 60 Buick dealers in the country. Not just for sales numbers but for customer satisfaction as well.

However, 65 Select 60s were built in 1990. The explanation was that the other 5 cars went to GM executives. This was obviously one of them.

Besides being an absolutely stunning example of an original Select 60, Nick's car has some special things about it.

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Deadline for Next Issue is December 27, 2022.

A SPECIAL SELECT 60 AT THE BCA NATIONAL MEET IN LISLE, IL



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In the compartment behind the driver's seat, there is normally a black handle for the cable release on the 5th bow for the convertible top.

In 1991 convertibles, Buick premiered the "power pull down" feature instead of the cable release system for the convertible 5th bow.

However, Ed Mertz must've pulled some strings and got this (normally 1991-only) power pull down feature installed on his personal Select 60! Nick's logic was that Mertz was a shorter man and using the snapping pins on a standard 1990 would've been quite difficult. I think he's likely spot-on.

Nick also has a set of gold Buick Keys and key fob with the Reatta emblem and "Ed Mertz" engraved on the back that was given to Mr Mertz when the car was delivered.

If you had the pleasure of seeing this car at the BCA Nationals this summer, you got to see what I would consider possibly the nicest Select 60 on the planet. Nick won a Gold New Senior award with it as well.

A huge thanks to Nick for bringing this beautiful car out and taking the time to show me all the special things about it!



Jack Oliver II

While attending the GM centennial at Sloan Museum I found myself gazing at the Reattas. Thinking I remember these, never really looked at one that close before, while perhaps someday I think I'll get one. Later that same year while taking my kids to school I noticed the dealer two blocks from our home had just gotten one in. I came back took it for a drive and had to have it.

However I had a 2000 Buick Century with only 45k on the dial that was more of lemon then a car. Car had been hit 3 times in a year, trans was going out and the computer was failing among other problems. I offered the dealer my Century, as is, in a full even trade for the Reatta. He bit and paid everything, so I had my first Reatta at no cost. Still have her today" it's a Pewter Gray 89.



Alix Agnew

I was doing some side work for an old man and seen it covered up with a bunch of junk. I asked the man since we were making his yard look nice if he wanted me to get rid of all of the junk while we were at it and under all the junk was a car that I've never seen before, which is the Buick Reatta. I asked him what he wanted for it, though it didn't have any wheels on it, the motor was seized so he thought (alternator was bad and had the belt binded up)and had no brakes whatsoever.

Guy told me a hundred bucks and I had two fifties in my wallet, looked at the man handed him 2 50s and said sold. I spent almost 3 hours digging this car out of the dirt just to put Jacks under it to put the wheels on it because the man laid the car in the dirt instead of putting it on blocks. Put it on a trailer worked on it for a year and a half. Have been driving it since.

Don Johnson

I always thought they were beautiful, but didn't fit the family plan with a family of four. For years they'd always catch my eye, but by the time the kids were out on their own, we were active in SCCA and had no use for a FWD cruiser.

A decade later I was on night shift looking at the bringatrailer website for laughs at what people will pay for cars! Well, low and behold I found a really clean 1990 Reatta for a very attractive price. I won the auction and the next week we made a road trip to pick it up. I've replaced the 14 yr old tires, and the old battery, and rebuilt the pop-up's and she's ready for the next car show.

I just gotta get wifey going on her new raised bed garden so she'll empty the retaining wall blocks from the trailer that's got the car blocked into the shop!

Leanna 'Lee' Kalka

I was wanting a fun car and was looking at a Chrysler LeBaron convertible. Hubby was concerned that it would be too many problems and told me about this car called a Buick Reatta. Had never heard of that model before. We called and got the car. Never have had any regrets.



If you want your story in the newsletter, please send it to me at: buffylane39@sbcglobal.net

THE BUICK FLEET MANUAL FOR 1989

Hello Elizabeth,

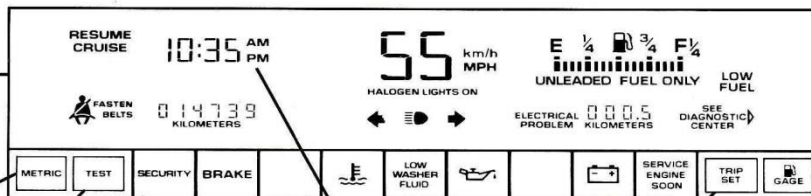
I know that sometimes you are looking for content for the newsletter. I came across this information (didn't know it was here in this house). It's from the Buick Fleet manual for 1989 that went out to fleet buyers. Maybe you can spread it over a few issues; neat info about the touch-screen features. It was interesting (to me) that in the 1988 Fleet Manual, there is no information about pricing on the Reatta.- It only says : pricing to be determined.. I do not have the fleet manuals for '90 or '91.- Maybe someone out there will. Chip Aepli
(Continued from Summer Issue 2022.)

1989 REATTA



INSTRUMENT PANEL

Electronic Digital Instrumentation (std.)



English/Metric Gauge (std.)

Display Test Switch (std.)

Theft-deterrent System (std.)

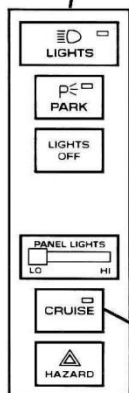
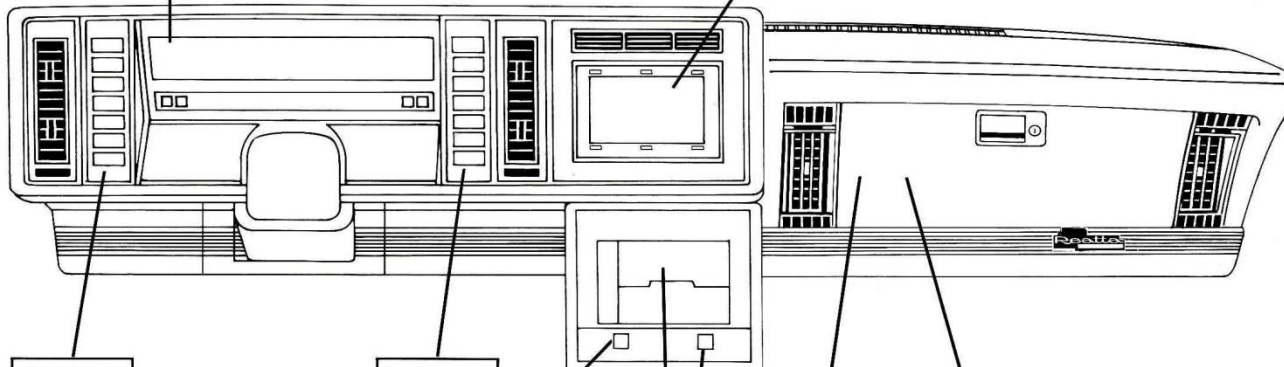
Digital Clock (std.)

Low Washer Fluid Indicator (std.)

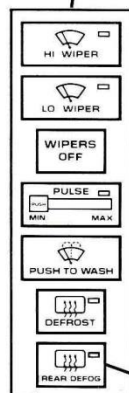
Trip Set Switch (std.)

Fuel Expansion Gage (std.)

Electronic Control Center (std.)
(includes radio)



Electronic Cruise Control Indicator (std.)



Fog Lamps (std.)

Headlamp Retract (std.)

Cassette Tape Player (std.)

Rear Defogger (std.)

Fuel Access Release (std.)

Deck Lid Release (std.)

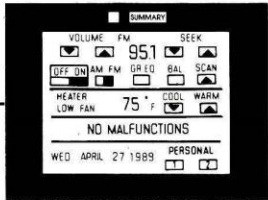
1989 REATTA



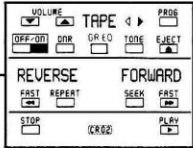
ELECTRONIC CONTROL CENTER

Electronic Control Center

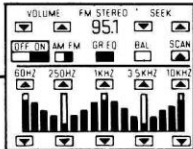
Enter Car, Close Door



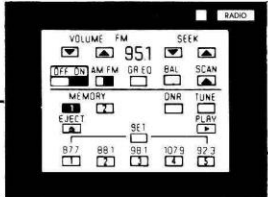
Start Engine.
Note: "No Malfunctions" will change to "Average MPG" after 30 seconds



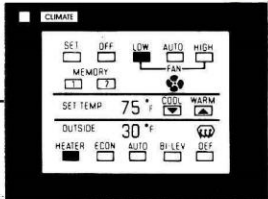
Press "Eject"
Insert Tape and Press "Play"



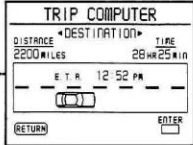
Press
"Graphic Equalizer"



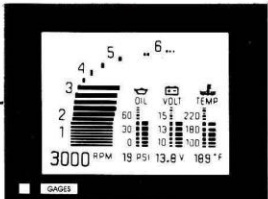
Press "Radio,"
Press Radio "On"



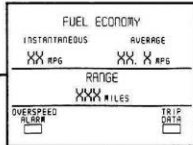
Press "Climate." Press Mode
and Fan Speed Keys



Press
"Trip Computer"



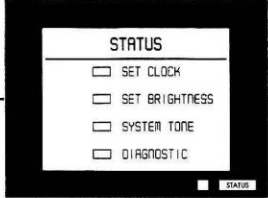
Press "Gages"



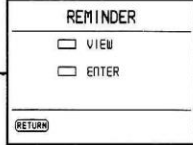
Press
"Trip Monitor"



Press "Options"



Press "Status"



Press
"Reminder"

CARS FOR SALE

1990 Convertible, White /white top/red interior, 7535 miles, \$17,000, purchased from a climate controlled collection, must sell our baby Reatta as our baby's car seat won't fit. **Bob Wessel, Valley Glen, CA 212-706-7683 (9/21)**

1990 Convertible, Black/tan top/tan interior, 78,000 miles, \$7,600. Down-sizing, must sell, 2nd owner for 25 years, Always Garaged. Converted to 134A. NY Inspection. **Ray Windas, Cell: 914-490-8762, Tarrytown, NY (5/22)**

1990 Coupe, Maui Blue, gray interior. 144,000 miles, new tires. ABS works, runs great. \$7,000. Located in **Salem, CT**. Photos available. Call Tom at: **860-859-1125. (10/22)**

1990 Coupe, Black/Dove Gray Interior, 140,000 miles. Good Condition, Needs Instrument Cluster Repair, **\$2,000**. **Also available, Parts: Front Bumper – Grill, Windshield, Rear Light Panel, \$500**. **Call Nick after 6 PM Eastern Time, Queens, NY, 1-718-347-1619 (10/22)**

1991 Coupe, Polo Green/ Tan Interior, 144,000 miles. Power antenna works, new brakes, new AC condenser, new exhaust, car runs at 100%. **\$4,995** email: **nelsond64@aol.com, Nelson Van Atta, Binghamton, N.Y. cell: 607-765-4300 (9/21)**

Classified ads will run for one year (4 issues) and 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). Trunk lock cover repair kits \$15. 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 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.

VERY LARGE REATTa MEMORIBILIA COLLECTION FOR SALE. This collection which was previously referenced in the Bugle December 2008 edition consists of over 750 individual items totaling over \$20,000.

The collection includes literature, posters, videos, illuminated signs, promo items, various magazines featuring Reatta and many very rare items some of which were acquired directly from the library at the Reatta Craft Centre in Lansing, Michigan. Many Reatta parts are also for sale.

There is a separate smaller collection of general Buick items available. The owner will be moving soon and will no longer have the four car Reatta Garage which currently houses this vast collection of interesting items. Offers for the entire collection will be considered.

A list and photos of the items and pricing may be requested by contacting **Charles Parry at (315) 383-0707 (call or text), or email: gm33@twcny.rr.com.**

Lots of Reatta parts from 175 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**

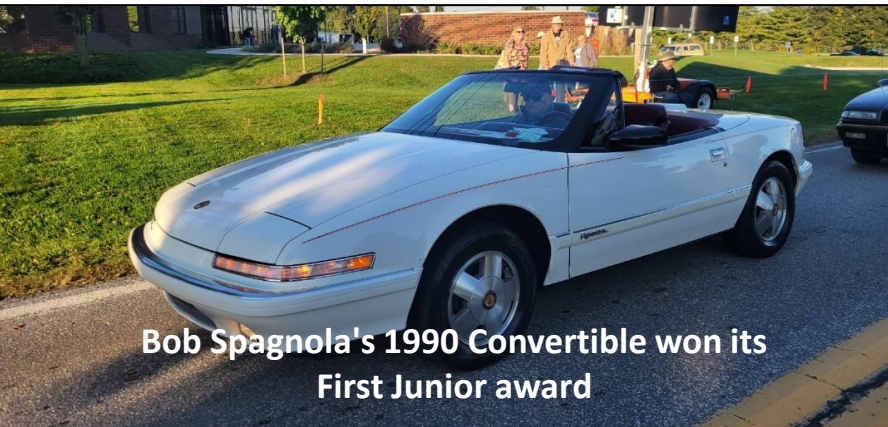
HERSHEY, PA AACA SHOW

At the Hershey, Pennsylvania AACA show October 7th, two Reattas left with great honors.

Tom Taylor's 1989 Coupe won its National Senior award.



Tom Taylor, his brother Art Taylor, and Bob Spagnola



Bob Spagnola's 1990 Convertible won its First Junior award

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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buffylane39@sbcglobal.net

LAND'S END STORE FOR MEMORABILIA

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

MEMBERS ONLY PASSWORD FOR THE REATA 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



Saturday, October 8th was the inaugural event for ROAD - Reatta Owners Around DC. Hosted by their fearless leaders: Rob Neighbour & Andrew Dan. Ten Reattas converged on the lawn at Andrew's house for food, fellowship, and of course, Reattas.

We had several local people, but also had some people driving from as far away as North Carolina and Montreal, Canada!

A huge thanks to Rob and Andrew for everything they did to pull this event together, and I hope it's the first of many!

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**