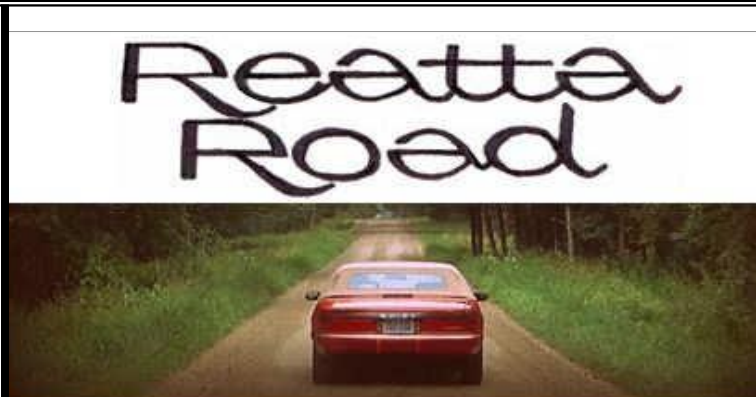




VOLUME 29—ISSUE 5

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Winter, 2025



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



Happy New Year to Reatta owners far and wide!

I'm looking forward to an exciting 2026 with my Reattas. Just before Christmas I picked up another 1990 Reatta convertible with just 59,000 miles. It was close and the price was right, so I couldn't resist! [photo below]. I'm excited to get it spruced back up and back on the road after sitting for a few years.

We have some spirited debate in this newsletter on the potential change to the division to include the Buick Cascada convertibles made from 2016-2019. I'd like to remind everyone that my main motivation behind considering this change is to grow the Division and include a larger number of BCA members to keep our division healthy and thriving. We need new people willing to serve as officers and newsletter editors.

We will be sending out a ballot in the spring to vote on this subject, so please consider the arguments on both sides and vote when the time comes!

Moreover, if you are already a Reatta Division member and would like to consider running for a leadership position in the club, please let our secretary Jerry know! His email address is ReattaClub@gmail.com.

I recently received an email from the BCA Board detailing a program for 2026 that enables new BCA members that find the BCA through a Division to join for as little as \$25. This is a savings of \$10 over the previous electronic membership price. This new application will be uploaded to our website Reatta.org. Please print it out and give it to any new Reatta or other Buick owners you know that aren't members!

A final plug before I get back to my projects in the garage. Earlier in December I received a huge shipment of new Reatta rear shocks. This has been a long- awaited solution to the problem of Reatta rear shocks being completely unavailable. These are brand new units that are a direct fit for all 1988-1991 Buick Reattas. I've been running the prototype set on my 1991 Coupe for a while and I love the way they ride. If you're tired of a cruddy ride, these are now shipping. You can find them on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/ECRP719>

I hope you all have a safe and prosperous new year!



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Deadline for Next Issue is Mid March.

Letters to the Editor

Friends,

As a new member, I just read my first Reatta Road newsletter.

Reading the highlighted section by Pat Gaglione I am completely against including the Cascada with the Reatta Division.

- *the Cascada is not a vintage car. It is between 9 and 6 years old.*
- *the Cascada is a four-seater*
- *the Cascada is made by Opel; manufactured in Poland, badged by Buick*
- *the trunk of the Cascada will not fit two golf bags (the reason I did not buy one)*

- *the Reatta is a vintage car (older than 25 years)*
- *the Reatta is a two-seater*
- *the Reatta was made by Buick in the USA*
- *the trunk of a Reatta will fit two golf bags*

In a conversation with Marck we found out that we both own (and love our) "Buick" Regal TourX Wagons. My guess is we are happy to call our wonderful Opel built wagons a Buick but not have them join a vintage Buick wagon division if one existed.

I don't know Pat Gaglione, or what the motivation is to include the Cascada other than the fact that he writes that **"many"** (how many exactly) Reatta Division owners also own a Cascada? In my opinion that argument for inclusion is very weak and would negatively impact the future of the Reatta Division. I'd like to know the factual data of how many R-Drivers also own a Cascada 5%, 10%, 20%???? My guess is it is under 20 units which would be about 10% of R-Div members?

tail (Opel) wagging the dog (Reatta)?,

Jeff Cornish
Snohomish, WA



Hi Elizabeth!

I just read the latest newsletter and want to tell you how much I appreciate all you do for the Division!

I would support including Cascadas in the Division. They are a "companion" car, and it will help keep our division robust and healthy.

Thanks.

Alan Oldfield

Inclusion of the Buick Cascada (2016–2019) in the BCA Reatta Division



The Cars

The Reatta was Buick's modern personal luxury coupe/convertible, emphasizing style, comfort, and exclusivity in a two-door format. A car featuring design uniqueness, tech-forward instrumentation, style over speed, and road worthy driving experience. The kind of car that makes its owner stand apart from the ordinary. As a part of the Reatta Division this low-volume, halo car has found a welcoming home after it was essentially orphaned by both Buick and GM. That division of the BCA ensures that future collectors and enthusiasts can enjoy the Reatta owning experience, as well as assisting current owners to more fully utilize and share their enjoyment with like-minded individuals.

Now go back and re-read the paragraph above changing the just the second word to "Cascada"! You can start to recognize the similarities. Both of these cars were low production vehicles that stood apart from the rest of the Buick line, making them underrepresented in the modern car culture of their time. Both were rare in that there were very few 2 door offerings from Buick during their runs, as sedans and SUVs have taken over. And both are seldom, if ever, used by their owners as their "main" car. Rather, these are cars that are specifically selected for their uniqueness and what they reflect about the owner. A car to enjoy rather than a simple means of transportation.

The Owners

And speaking of the owners; the demographics of the owners of both cars offer some very interesting observations. At the time of original purchase, the buyer profile of a 1988-1991 Reatta would match nearly identically to that of the 2016 -2019 buyer of a new Cascada. And even more, as the Reatta owners are aging, we see a significant number of them migrating to a Cascada, to fill the same desires, but in a vehicle that is newer, easier to get in and out of, and has the advantage of the 2+2 seating, when needed.

The Division

There is no getting around the fact that time marches on. Each year the number of Reattas on the road decreases and with it the population of potential R-Div members in the BCA. Adding Cascada owners to the mix would cast the net to include younger, more active members that may never have owned a Reatta, but share in the same passion for owning a personal luxury car with a supportive organization. Rather than seeing membership slowly decrease; we would proactively create a synergy that supports both Reatta and Cascada and ensure that these special cars are not lost to history. And that synergy is one of the benefits we would lose if Cascada owners were to form a separate division, or worse, no division at all.

Summary

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. The Cascada would make a worthy addition to expand the family of halo cars embraced by the BCA Reatta Division. This would put into the same stable, two of Buick's boldest efforts to create a car that represents a departure from the mainstream.

Pat Gaglione

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 @ 512-635-5132 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**

Marck,

Since you mentioned in the most recent Reatta Road that you won't be seeking election for another term as Director next summer, I realized that I need to make the same decision.

Although I'm currently facing some health issues, I should be "as good as new" in a few months.

I'm therefore declaring my intention to run for another term as Secretary/Treasurer.

Thanks, Jerry Richstein

Paul Gomberg's 89 in the snow in New Mexico

I was driving my 1989 Reatta from Houston to Santa Fe, New Mexico. A large snow storm affected I-40 West from Amarillo towards New Mexico and so we detoured and came up from the south through Roswell, NM. We ate disgusting alien beef jerky for dinner in Roswell. The Reatta drove like a champ through the mess, only received a minor windshield chip. Got that fixed in Albuquerque for \$43 and we were on our way to Santa Fe.



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 REATTAS 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.

Dear Elizabeth: Found this picture cleaning out a drawer. This is the sister car to the Sinatra Jr's, car that Marck Barker had. When he got it, I remembered he said he would never get rid of it. Guess somebody twisted his arm. My car has no blemishes and 33K miles. I put white walls on it because I am old and prefer the old things. **Sincerely, Charles Thompson**



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**