



Reatta Road



VOLUMN 25—ISSUE 5

PAGE 1

Winter 2021



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



With the holidays approaching it's with a heavy heart that I share the news that one of our former directors, Chuck Kerls, passed away. Chuck and I served on the BCA Board of Directors together, and I'll always remember him as a fair, honest, and good-hearted man who always had the best interest of the club at hand. He was a fervent ambassador of the Reatta. He will be greatly missed and his memory will live on in the Buick club and the Reatta division for years to come. More memorials to Chuck can be found on pages 2 and 3.

My wife Kaitlyn and I just recently returned from picking up a Reatta in California. I drove out there in early October and purchased three cars. I trailered two back, and left the third at a trusted mechanic's shop to get it running. It had been sitting since 2014, and the fuel pump was dead in addition to several other needs. It was a fairly rare Claret Red with grey interior 1990 coupe with a working factory sunroof. And it's spent all its life in Southern California, so the underside is as clean as a pin!

A few weeks later, we flew in, grabbed the car from the shop, and toured Los Angeles for a day or so. Then we struck out for home. 2800 miles later we made it back to Durham NC without a single issue! Just a testament to how well built these cars are. Get out there and drive them!

Below is a photo we took in Joshua Tree National Park. Have you driven your Reatta on a road trip or to a car show or other point of interest recently? Tell us about it! Our newsletter editor Elizabeth is always looking for stories and photos about Reattas to include in this newsletter. We rely on submissions from members like you!

Happy Holidays to all, and may all your Reatta dreams come true this holiday season!

**happy
holidays!**

Included In This Issue:

Chuck Kerls	Pages 2-3
1991 Mystery	Page 4
Reatta Parts/Literature for Sale	Page 5
New Members	Page 5
Cars For Sale	Page 6
How I got my Reatta	Page 7
Club Hats and Visors	Page 7
How I Got my Reatta	Page 8
Deadline for the next issue is Mar. 1, 2022	



Chuck Kerls 11/26/47 –11/27/21

The Reatta Division is sad to announce the passing of Kenneth Charles "Chuck" Kerls. He was division director 2008-2011 and a strong voice for the division as a BCA Board member. Chuck was also the leading organizer of the BCA National Meet held in Springfield, Missouri in 2015. Booreatta, a 1989 blue coupe was Chuck's first Reatta, later Chuck was fortunate to own a Select Sixty. In 2018 Chuck was awarded the Reatta Division Peterson Award for his leadership and support of the division. He will be greatly missed by his many friends in the division.

Anne Gibson

Wichita resident Chuck Kerls passed away Saturday, November 27 at Via Christi Hospital in Wichita, one day after his 74th birthday. Chuck was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 26, 1947, the son of Kenneth C. and Bettye (Ramsey) Kerls.

His family moved from St. Louis to Lubbock, TX to Belle Aire, KS where he graduated from Belle Aire High School in 1966. He went on to attend Wichita State University. On May 21, 1976, Chuck was united in marriage to Bonnie Kathleen (Kathy) Farmer, in a ceremony by the river in Wichita.

Chuck had a love of all kinds of cars. He loved his family and enjoyed time spent with them and especially his grandchildren. Preceding Chuck in death were his parents and 2 sisters; Darlene Kerls and Pamela Kerls. Those left to cherish his memory are his loving wife Kathy of their home in Wichita. His children Michelle Crowe and her husband Wes of Derby, Misti Rohde of Wichita, Mike Kerls and his wife Christina of Topeka, and Chris Arnold and his wife Bobbie of Tyrone, OK. Also surviving are 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made in Chuck's name to Ability Point (A Chapter of The ARC), 2919 W. 2nd Street, Wichita, KS 67203. You may donate online at abilitypoint.org. *(The Reatta Club has made a donation to Ability Point in Chuck's name.)*



Photo: Martel Gibson



Chuck was a really nice guy and I always enjoyed meeting with him and Kathy at the Reatta meets and a couple of times in Wichita. I think he still owes me a beer although Chuck would say "I owed him".

The first time I met Chuck in person was at a Buick meet in Plano TX, I am from Duluth MN, and Chuck asked me if I had, at home, any of the small blue buttons that covered the snaps on the early Reatta floor mats. I reached in my pocket and took some out and asked him how many he needed.

I believe Kathy made this shirt patch for that meet.



Chuck will be greatly missed.

Jim Finn

So sad..... we have lost another great friend and great guy. Chuck was very active in the Reatta Div. Guess I have known him for 20 + years. It may be selfish but it really bothers me to loose a friend.... I cherish my friends. **Barney Eaton**

I served with Chuck on the BCA BOD, in fact I recruited him to be on it. Also we worked side by side on the Springfield National Meet that he chaired. Great man and great Buick man. Fascinating career at Wal-Mart too. Since coming off the BOD we'd chat from time to time but hadn't seen him in some time with COVID and all. Will miss him. **Brian DePouli**

My heartfelt condolences to Chuck's family. I knew him through the Reatta Division. A few years ago, he sent me a few Reatta parts free of charge, "just paying it forward" he said. All I had to do was pay for shipping. Very sad to hear about his passing. **Dave Shipman**

My name is **Tom Sparkman**, and I am Director of Wheatland Chapter of Buick Club of America in Wichita, KS. I first met Chuck around 2004. Our first BCA Nationals together was in 2008 at Flint, MI, where Chuck showed us the ropes and introduced us to many of his friends from around the country & world. A lasting relationship started when he introduced us to Mike & Helena Hanning from New Zealand. Mike has joined us at every BCA Nationals that I have attended since.

In 2009 at Colorado Springs, CO Chuck invited us to join the Reatta Club for their cruise and dinner. We stayed at the end of the pack due to traveling in our 1955 Modified Riviera. Met some great folks.

In 2010 at Ames, IA there was a car show not affiliated with the BCA that we attended. Chuck asked me to save him a place if I got there before him. Long story short, we saved a place, had to argue with many folks wanting his spot, Chuck was very late due to commitments at BCA National HQ, when he did show up he only stayed for 30-45 minutes, and had to leave. We couldn't give away his spot after he left because everyone was mad we saved it earlier.

In 2015 the Springfield BCA Nationals would have been a big flop if it wasn't for Chuck. There were lots of loose ends that needed to be coordinated and Chuck stepped up and saved it by taking charge. Great show.

That was his passion. He was always involved with car shows around Wichita, KS. He spent years working with the Automobilia nighttime car show that typically had over 1,000 cars in downtown Wichita, KS. He has either direct or indirect interest with most shows in Wichita due to the network of organizers he knows and lunches with.

When we had our Wheatland Chapter car shows he offered his home for a meeting place for coordinating the show.

We have an annual Riverfest Parade in Wichita that he volunteered his Reatta's to organizations for entries. He always let my wife drive in the parades so he could just sit and watch. She loves his cars.

We have a monthly "Dragging Douglas" event in Wichita that has endured since the 50's and Chuck was always there with one of his cars. Great memories of his youth.

He could talk for hours about the history of Wichita and all sorts of general trivia.

Two things we could always count on with our weekly outings. Save me a place meant, I'll be there but don't know when and where are we going for Ice Cream? Oh yes, don't suggest going someplace for dinner where they don't have great hamburgers.

Chuck was just a passionate car guy, a great friend, and will be sorely missed by all that knew him. Rest in Peace buddy.

This is a story about a 1991 Reatta convertible and it is also an unsolved mystery.

By Barney Eaton



Reatta production for 1991 had many stories, among them was the donation of at least 45 convertibles to auto tech schools around the US. Buick deemed them unsellable mainly for ride quality-cowl shake. One of these convertibles was 900616 a white car with white top and white/red interior. That would make it one of 5 known convertibles built in 1991 with white leather seats. This Reatta was donated to New Hampshire Technical College.

A couple of BCA members from NH visited the school one day and snapped pictures. They discovered the school also had a donated 1990 Reatta red convertible (901285).

The mystery begins with the white interior. 900616 today has a flame red interior, all documentation says it was built with white interior and flame red trim...what happened to the white interior?

Let's go back to the last months of Reatta production. All the 1991 convertibles were built between Jan and March, as they were finished, all were shipped to Miami to be road tested.

They were "graded" as Sellable, Sellable to employees, or unsellable. Of the 305 convertibles built, there is documentation designation 136 would be sellable, 102 were sold to employees, the remaining 67 unsellable (most of these went to tech schools).

It seems reasonable that the convertibles being offered to employees and those being donated would be parked in a holding area at the Craft Centre. Employees have told us they could go to the lot and look at the cars they might be considering. It would seem that the unsellable cars would be common knowledge and in the same area. Did the interior get switched at the Craft Centre or elsewhere? In the information sent to me by the BCA members that saw the car at the school, is a copy of the vehicle manifest. The manifest indicates that 900616 was charged to Cadillac Motor Car Div and shipped to BOC Group Detroit Product. Did the interior get changed after it left the Craft Centre and before being donated to the NH school?.

The white interior had to go somewhere, so what are the candidates? We eliminate the sellable cars mainly because they were probably shipped to dealers as soon as they returned from Miami. It would need to be a car with a red interior going to an employee. Looking at the records we have 35 possibilities, checking those vins with the database tends to eliminate all but 4 cars that we do not have input. There is also the possibility that if changed at Cadillac, it might not be a car listed as sold to an employee. Until we find and eliminate possible cars, the mystery remains, what 1991 convertible has white leather seats with red trim and was not built that way?



The white car is 1991 Reatta convertible 900616 donated to New Hampshire Technical college the red convertible is a 1990 that was discovered when some BCA members went to the school to see the 1991.

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 REATA 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**

NEW MEMBERS

June 2021 thru November 2021

**W
E
L
C
O
M
E**

RDiv#	BCA#	FirstName&Spouse	Last Name	City	State
2291	15135	Maryanna	Morrow	Clinton Springs	NY
2292	19434	David & Karla	Foutch	Flint	MI
2293	51744	Robert	Smale	Pottstown	PA
2294	51733	John & Colleen	Griffiths	Beaverton	OR
2295	38467	Tammy & Randy	Sherwin	Moon Township	PA
2296	51830	Richard	McNally	Flushing	MI
2297	51841	Bob	Wessel & Sarah Brown	Valley Glen	CA
2298	51835	Howard & Sylvia	Baker	Acworth	GA
2299	51862	James & Dawnn	Bonnema	Valparaiso	IN
2300	51864	Keith	Nagy	Painesville	OH
2301	51854	Steven & Ruth	Boyer	Stewartstown	PA
2302	51872	Janet	Martin	Fort Wayne	IN
2303	51866	Robert & Ramona	Moyer	Lowell	MI
2304	51886	Robert	Pisarek	Simpsonville	SC
2305	51891	Benjamin & Denise	Jones	Sarasota	FL
2306	6396	Paula	Liska	Kissimmee	FL
2307	51960	Lori & George	Hutton	Warren	MI
2308	51606	David & Sharman	Normile	Bothell	WA

CARS FOR SALE

1990 Convertible. Red/Tan top/Tan interior. Less than **50,000** miles. New Top, AC blows cold, 16 way seat. Car is clean inside & out, & always garage stored. Contact **Larry Peterson (316) 655-9725**. Asking **\$11,000 O.B.O.** Email: **gpstubby@gmail.com** for pictures. (9/20)

1990 Convertible, white/blue/white top. **99,000** miles. New suspension, brakes, tires, top, A/C converted, exterior/Interior 99%garaged. Pictures available, service records since owned. second owner. Drive anywhere. **Bob Oneil, (931) 854-6286** Email: **boneil88@twlakes.net** (5/20)

1990 Select 60 convertible, VIN 1G4EC33COLB904715, new vinyl top, good tires, battery, A.C., premium radio, all documentation, window sticker, **98,214** miles, located near Dayton, Ohio. Call **Jim at (937) 672-8568** or Email: **jimmyche43@gmail.com**. Pictures on request. Asking **\$20,000**. (9/20)

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. Upgraded wheels and tires **\$12,500. \$11,000** with original wheels. Call Ed at **(610) 366-0234** or cell **(484) 707-6146**. (9/20)

1990 convertible, red ,tan interior, 101,000 miles. Nice condition. The car is located in Fremont Michigan. Asking **\$5,500**. Contact **Preston at 213-924-4413** or email **cpkrom2@gmail.com**. (9/20)

1990 Convertible, White /white top/red interior, 7535 miles, \$22,000, 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)

1991 Convertible. 13,500 original miles. Black with Grey interior, 2nd owner, always garaged - hasn't seen rain or dark of night. **All original parts \$18,500.** Email: **mahooves@hotmail.com** for pictures and additional information or contact **Mark Hoover (765) 215-3978**. (12/20)

1991 Coupe, Polo Green, (only 21 built), tan interior with all options: Sunroof, CD Player, 16 way seats. Always garaged, covered. Driven in VT summers only. **75,340 miles.** Mechanically and cosmetically perfect. Age dictates sale, **\$10,000.** I have the service manual and compete records. Tel: **(802) 867-0307**. Off to Florida mid October Tel: **(772) 231-9384**. (9/20)

1991 Convertible. 25,500 miles. White/ white top/ blue leather interior. Always garaged, never driven in winter. In great shape and all electronics work including convertible top! No rust, no accidents. **\$15,000.** Located in E. Lansing, MI. Call Andrea at **517-881-4309**. (12/20)

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)

1991 Limited Convertible, Arctic White with White top, and Red body side stripes. Red leather interior. 38,058 original miles. 3.8 liter V-6 engine. Excellent condition and well maintained. Always garaged and always in the south (purchased from Memphis dealer and relocated to Hilton Head, SC). Radio/ cassette/CD, retractable headlamp covers and antenna, A/C, electric seats and windows. 1991 Reatta Service Manual and convertible dust cover included. Only 305 made, but only 235 sold to the public. Pictures available upon request. **\$18,500 asking price. Contact owners, Sheila or Bob Buck. Phone: 843-686-5202** or Email: **sbuck0823@aol.com**

Classified ads will run for one year (4 issues) and then be dropped, unless editor is notified to continue the ad.

Next issue all ads with 2020 on them will be dropped.

HOW I GOT MY REATTA

William Struve

I found our 1st Reatta at a public auction, where I went to bid on a triple black 91 Allante. The Allante had a bad head gasket, smelling up the auction bay, so I passed on it.

The 88 white/burgundy Reatta had an engine, (crank pulley), knock which scared bidders away, except one.

I bid up to \$850 and backed off, cuz Panikmekanik was stabbing me with her elbow.

I said "Ok, OKAY! I stopped bidding, THAT'S NOT ME!

She replied, in an aggressive tone, GET IT!

So I jumped back in at \$1300 with my trademark bidder call, hitherto known by auctioneers across the Midwest, and beyond, (i.e.- Ebay!), MINE!

He backed off after 3 more bids, I was at \$1950, and he wouldn't bid \$2k. Panikmekanik drove "Bambi" home that afternoon.

It took me weeks to find one for myself! Then another 2 in two more weeks.

I snagged 2 91's and a 90 over the next 2 months, in WI, IL & TX. Took all three to my 1st BCA show and brought home BCA Gold, Silver & Bronze.

Forgot all about Allantes.

I still have my favorite one - Black Beauty, 91 Reatta Roadster Blk/Blk/Flame red, the BCA Gold winner.

Our family heirloom car.



**HAPPY 30TH
BIRTHDAY!
1991
REATTAS**

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

DIRECTOR: Marck C. Barker

702 Crestview Drive
Durham, NC 27712
89reatta@gmail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Chip Aepli

991 Southeast Avenue
Tallmadge, OH 44278
cwaeppli@gmail.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Jerry Richstein

4798 Grants Way NE
Marietta, GA 30066
ReattaClub@gmail.com

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Ed Farnell: eafarnell@gmail.com

Jim Finn: reattas60@gmail.com

Anne Gibson: agibson36@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Bill Landers: walanders@hotmail.com

Paul Gomberg: paul.gomberg@gmail.com

Mike Glaz: mbglaz@gmail.com

WEB ROAD MASTER: Peter Gariepy

petergariepy@gmail.com

BCA TECHNICAL ADVISOR:

1988-1991 REATTAS

Barney Eaton

20111 Deerfield Drive
Georgetown TX 78633
barneyeaton1@gmail.com

REATA ROAD EDITOR:

Elizabeth Lane

39 Cockle Hill Road
Salem, CT 06420
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.

HOW I GOT MY REATTA

Daniel Carriere

My dad got an 88 in the early 90s and drove it for a decade. Then it sat in the garage for a decade since it was impractical for our family of 6.

I finally convinced him to let me get it back on the road and enjoy it myself. After a few weeks of scouring the forums and YouTubing tutorials, I had it back on the road. Drove it for a couple years and I moved out west.

Unfortunately, I got in a wreck when a guy pulled out in front of me and I had no time to avoid him. Reatta totaled. I was devastated as it was my first car and I'd fixed it up myself plus it was my dad's old car.

I checked online 24/7 for a decent replacement for months (not many in western Canada). On a trip out to the mountains I checked the area and there was one put up for sale in Calgary. I immediately told my girlfriend we had to check it out. Took about a half day to check it out and get it insured to drive back to Saskatchewan.

Since then I've driven it about 50k in the past two years including back out to the mountains and then all way back to Ontario and eventually to Nova Scotia where I'm currently living.

ReRe II (pronounced ReeRee the second) is a joy to drive and is perfect for road trip adventures with my girlfriend and our 2 dogs. The original ReRe was put to rest at the girlfriends family farm death row in northern Saskatchewan where she continues to be useful as a parts car.

For anyone that would like their story on how they got their Reatta in the Reatta Road, please send it to me: Buffylane39@sbcglobal.net

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**